



## TRAVEL

Where the Venetians left their mark



## REVIEW

The bridge that spanned a century of storms



BOOKS  
Hercule Poirot:  
a joke against  
the English

LAST MONTH'S  
AVERAGE DAILY SALE  
432,000  
No 63,638

# THE TIMES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

30p

## Militant crews vote for all-out strike against settlement

# Ambulance deal, but no 'pay formula'

By Tim Jones and Philip Webster

Militant ambulancemen are to go ahead with an all-out strike from Monday in spite of the settlement agreed after 20 hours of talks between health service and union negotiators yesterday.

Union leaders who claimed that they had won rises worth almost 20 per cent for their members still face a grass-roots revolt over their failure to achieve a pay bargaining mechanism for the future.

And suggestions that the deal had "driven a coach and horses" through government pay policy were dismissed in Whitehall; with Mr Duncan Nichol, the health service chief executive, saying it would add only 13 per cent to the wage bill over two years.

Although the protracted negotiations mean more money for the crews, the deal was immediately rejected in Liverpool, where members of the National Union of Public Employees voted to go ahead

with a strike from Monday. Mr Stewart Smith, a union branch chairman said: "We will not sell jobs and that is what acceptance of the offer would mean."

Ambulance union leaders also face revolts in London and Manchester, where crews are demanding the same "emergency service status" as fire fighters and policemen.

Throughout the six-month dispute, the unions had said there could be no settlement without a pay formula for

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future. But yesterday, the chief negotiator Mr Roger Poole admitted that it had been clear since November that the Government would not grant such a formula.

He said, however, that the financial deal was "simply staggering, driving a coach and horses through government pay policy"; and that the talks had achieved a "firm framework" for future Whitley Council negotiations.

For the first time, the council would negotiate ambulance workers' pay without being constrained by any announcement from the Secretary of State for Health before talks began, he said.

The value of the deal was the subject of wildly different interpretations last night.

Mr Poole said it meant staff would receive 17.6 per cent next week, with an extra 2 per cent available from October, pushing the final figure for a qualified ambulance worker to 19.6 per cent.

The Department of Health said that as the crews had not received a pay rise since April 1988, the settlement represented 16.9 per cent over three years, with the extra 2 per cent a "target increase" which could be awarded locally depending on improvements in efficiency.

Ministers accept the unions' figures for the award, but say that staging the increases means the cost amounts to 9 per cent in the first year and 4 per cent in the second.

They expressed relief that a dispute that caused government unpopularity appeared to be ending, and the Prime Minister was said to be satisfied by the outcome.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said that the deal had involved concessions by the Government. A good deal had been secured by dint of enormous sacrifice and effective action, he said.

But ministers were confident that the firm line taken by the Government, particularly its refusal to concede a pay linkage formula, would serve as a warning to other groups that they would have little to gain by striking.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, said that the settlement meant that the going rate for public sector pay rises sector was 8 per cent.

In spite of the militancy on Merseyside, London and other areas, union sources believed last night that the offer would be accepted in the ballot of 22,500 ambulance workers and controllers, if only because of the financial hardship which many of their members are suffering.

Unison members were nevertheless unhappy that backdated lump sum payments, ranging from £615 for an ambulanceman to £915 for a leading ambulanceman, would not be consolidated into the pay agreement.

The deal means that a leading ambulanceman now earning £10,888 per year will receive £11,868 from this March, and £12,806 from October. For ambulancemen, the rates will increase from £7,340 to £8,001 and to £8,633 from October.

Fully-trained paramedical staff will receive an additional £500 per year from April 1, and partly-trained paramedics will receive additional payments ranging from £150 to £230 a year, depending on their skills.

For ambulance officers, lump sum payments will range from £1,025 to £1,385 with increases in basic salaries from £12,174 to £14,318 and from £16,462 to £19,362, depending on grade.



Show of defiance: Ambulancemen in Liverpool voting last night in favour of an all-out strike from 7am on Monday after rejecting the national pay offer. The decision, taken at a packed mass meeting in the Trades Union Congress centre in the city, means that army ambulances may be seen on Merseyside streets for the first time since the dispute began (David Cross writes).

Mr Stewart Smith, chairman of the

Merseyside branch of Nape, said after the almost unanimous vote: "We will not sell jobs - that is what acceptance of the offer would have meant. The men are fully prepared to stay out and we have strong public support for the action."

"Staff on Merseyside were already involved in industrial action before the national dispute started, over changes in the way the service in this area was to operate. Maybe that is why we are so determined. We have already had a taste of what is to come for the service as a whole."

He added that the Merseyside men's main objection to the pay offer was that it did not involve a national pay formula.

Mr Ray Clayton, the branch secretary, said: "If you look at the pay deal carefully, for one thing it does not offer 17 per cent: the increase actually adds up to 13 per cent and no more."

## Shell is fined £1m for oil spill

By Ronald Faxx

Shell UK was fined £1 million at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday for polluting the Mersey estuary last August with 156 tonnes of crude oil.

The spill, which fouled 12 miles of beach and foreshore, came from a six-inch fracture in a corroded pipeline.

Mr Justice Mars-Jones told the court that Shell had massive resources and could with ease meet a fine of many millions of pounds. But, he said, its otherwise outstanding contribution to the community was in its favour. The company had already paid out more than £1.4 million for the clean-up operation.

The judge said he could not accept Shell's claim that human error was not the cause of the spill. The leaking pipeline had twice been flushed, against the wishes of officials from Wirral Borough Council, causing a "gush" to burst from the fracture and pour seven more tonnes of oil into the Mersey.

He criticized the monitoring system on the 12-mile pipeline between Tranmere and Stanlow and said it was unclear why the National Rivers Authority had not been told of the incident until 5.30pm on August 19, more than three hours after the pipe burst.

Shell had pleaded guilty to the charge, brought under the Control of Pollution Act 1974, of allowing polluting matter to enter the river. However, it maintained that the pipeline had been flushed to clear oil trapped in the system. The company was ordered to pay £6,000 costs.

Dr Chris Harpley, general manager of the National Rivers Authority, said afterwards: "We do not believe Shell acted in the best interests of the environment in deliberately flushing out the oil. Common sense tells us that it must have taken years for the pipeline to have become corroded to this extent." He said the authority would not hesitate to prosecute those who polluted rivers.

Shell later issued a written statement deeply regretting the incident.

## ADVERTISEMENT

just for a change,  
give your bank  
some bad news.

## Ailing retail chain to leave Glasgow

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

The Glasgow-based retailer, A. Goldberg, which fought off a £32 million takeover bid from Blacks Leisure last year, is to leave Scotland and set up its headquarters in London, as part of an attempt to return the group to profits.

At the same time, Goldberg will be cut back to a smaller higher-margin fashion chain, closing up to half its stores and laying off a large part of its workforce. Around 100 jobs could be involved and staff were being told yesterday.

The drastic overhaul is the first, crucial response by the new chief executive, Mr Adrian Atkinson, to the crisis that left Goldberg with a £4.5 million loss in the half-year to last September. Goldberg, which owns the Wriggles, Schub and Ted Baker chains, has instigated a "strategic review" of all its operations.

On the stock market yes-

terday Goldberg shares were marked 9p lower to 78p. The Blacks share exchange bid price valued them at 192p.

A statement from the company yesterday said that "as a result of [the review] the board has decided to substantially contract its trading activities and refocus its fashion businesses".

It continued: "As part of the cutback the company will be closing a number of loss-making stores, and reducing staff numbers substantially." It is thought that at least half the 32 Wriggles stores and 20 Goldberg stores will shut.

Goldberg, which set out on

ambitious plans to transform itself into a national fashion retail chain in 1985, has been caught by the latest downturn in high street spending.

Losses of about £9 million,

including extraordinary items,

are likely for the whole year.

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### Lloyds Bank card vote

More than 600,000 Lloyds Bank Access customers, a fifth of the total, have destroyed their credit cards in protest at the bank's decision to charge a £12 annual fee.

Full report, page 3

Markets down

London stockmarkets suffered from the steep Thursday fall in Japan and closed 32.5 points down at 2,236.7 yesterday. Page 17



Mr Jacob Rothschild: Offer to buy statue in lieu of taxes.

D 2

## Rothschild offer to buy Three Graces

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A bold proposal is being discussed to save Canova's "The Three Graces" from being exported to the Getty Museum, California.

It would involve Mr Jacob Rothschild, the financier and chairman of the National Gallery, buying the £7.6 million work then offering it to the nation in lieu of the same amount of tax payable on an inheritance from a cousin.

I feel strongly about the Three Graces leaving England and have tried to come up with some initiatives that will be helpful in finding a

solution," Mr Rothschild said yesterday.

The marble sculpture of three dancing maidens was commissioned by the sixth Duke of Bedford in 1817. It remained at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, until 1985 when it was transported to an exhibition in Washington.

It transpired that the Tavistock family sold it prior to the exhibition to an anonymous company based in the Cayman Islands. Only yesterday did the company disclose its name, Fine Art Investment and Display Lim-

ited, whose shareholders remain a mystery.

Having negotiated to sell the work to the Getty, the company applied for an export licence last year. The Victoria and Albert Museum launched an appeal last month, but with a running total of only £350,000, hopes of meeting the March 12 deadline were fading.

Mrs Heather Wilson, tax specialist at the Museums and Galleries Commission, said the owners could sell the Graces to the executors of the Rothschild cousin's estate.



n deaths

# Appeal court frees man who 'confessed' to disbanded squad

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

A man jailed for 15 years after members of the West Midlands police's disbanded serious crimes squad allegedly fabricated a confession by him was cleared and freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The judges, led by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, in quashing the conviction of Mr Hassan Khan, aged 35, a father of two, who the police claimed had confessed freely to taking part in an armed robbery, said it was "unsafe and unsatisfactory".

The decision came after the Court of Appeal released last July a man jailed for five years on evidence supplied by the squad. Seven other appeals lodged by people jailed after being investigated by the squad are yet to be heard.

Five officers involved in the Khan case are to be interviewed by the West Yorkshire police who, under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority, are investigating about 100 allegations of malpractice and criminal acts involving the unit, which was disbanded last year.

Mr Khan, of Caernarfon, Gwynedd, refused to comment after being released from the court cells, other than to declare: "I am innocent".

His brother, Kenny, aged 36, who chained himself to railings outside the Law Courts in central London on Thursday in protest about the case, predicted that Mr Khan would seek early compensation from the police.

However, he said: "no

money in the world" could make amends for false imprisonment. Mr Khan, who claimed his brother had "lost everything", said: "He just wants to get home to his wife, Rita, and his sons, Yassa, who is seven, and Ali, aged two. He has never seen the baby outside prison walls".

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Pill, said: "Having heard close and careful analysis of the police evidence, we are, to say the least, very doubtful whether the evidence of the appellant's admission is reliable."

Mr Khan was convicted at Birmingham Crown Court on December 2 1988 on a 10-2 verdict for a £10,000 armed robbery in the city. Two people who pursued the robber were shot and wounded.

Lord Lane said there were several material and odd features about the case, the most

important being Mr Khan's apparent anxiety to confess while being driven by the police from Caernarfon to Birmingham for questioning.

Mr Khan had contacted a solicitor before going with the police. In spite of this and being warned by officers that formal statements should be made only in police stations, he had seemingly admitted his guilt during the journey.

The notes Lord Lane said, had allegedly been taken by a detective sergeant using light from a torch hung from his neck. However, remarkably, they showed no signs of the pen being jolted and were no different to other notes written by him in the comparative comfort of the police station.

Lord Lane also voiced concern at a second statement allegedly made by Mr Khan at Chelmsley Wood police station, Birmingham. The caution on the statement's first page bore his signature but none of the succeeding pages did. Mr Khan contended that the latter were fabricated.

There seems to be no reason why he should not have signed them if, as was said, he was freely admitting his guilt," the judge said.

Lord Lane said the court was also troubled by evidence of a car trip to Edgbaston reservoir, near Mr Khan's former home, where a robbery kit had been recovered by the police. It had been suggested that the journey enabled the police to conduct a further conversation with Mr Khan.

Mr Hassan Khan: conviction unsafe and unsatisfactory.

## 'Kidneys for sale' case

### Surgeon admits need for safeguards

By John Young

A leading transplant surgeon said yesterday that there were deficiencies in a system that allegedly allowed kidneys to be taken from four Turkish donors in return for payment.

Mr Michael Bewick told a disciplinary committee of the General Medical Council that there was a need in future for fail-safe mechanisms "which we have never had in the past".

However, Mr Bewick disagreed with the earlier admission by his colleague, Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, that all the transplant operations they had performed together had been unethical. Mr Joyce was "hypocritical" of himself, he said. In respect of the four Turks, the system had been deficient, but to say that the majority of transplant operations were unethical was untrue.

Mr Bewick was giving evidence at the end of the fifth week of a hearing into charges of serious professional misconduct against himself, Mr Joyce and Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist. All three deny the charges of misconduct.

Cross-questioned by Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the council, Mr Bewick said he

accepted that the procedures should have revealed whether the donors were fully informed, had given their willing consent and that no money had changed hands.

It was standard clinical practice for donors to be intensively questioned about their background and physical and mental state. Although he accepted it was his responsibility to ensure that every patient gave his willing consent to an operation, it had never occurred to him that it

was his personal duty to obtain the signature.

If Mr Ahmet Koch, the Turk who claimed that his kidney was removed without his prior knowledge or consent was telling the truth, the system was clearly defective.

Mr Bewick said that, in all four cases he had relied upon Dr Crockett to provide him with willing, unpaid and fully informed donors.

"This was because you had a full understanding with Dr Crockett about his responsibility in these fields?" Mr Henderson asked. "Yes." Mr

Henderson said. "Mr Fethal Usta if he had

advertised in Turkey, if he had asked to be paid and if he knew the person to whom his kidney would be given.

"But all of that would have been done through an interpreter," Mr Bewick said. "How my question was interpreted to the patient and what his reply was, and how it was translated to me might have been different."

Earlier, Mr Bewick had admitted transplanting a National Health Service kidney into a private patient, a Greek woman, at the Wellington Hospital in St John's Wood, north-west London. But he denied that he had deliberately misled Dr David Taube, consultant nephrologist at Dulwich Hospital Renal Unit and other colleagues.

"There was no reason for me to mislead them," he said. "I just felt here was a sick woman who needed a kidney."

He had been called early one morning to remove the kidney from a patient who had just died and he had them in his car. While driving up Park Lane to the Wellington Hospital he had made a spur of the moment decision to give one of the kidneys to the patient whom he was greatly concerned about.

The hearing continues on Monday.

### Kasparov

### revenge on Spassky

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

Gary Kasparov, the world chess champion, settled an old debt against Boris Spassky, the former champion, in the fourth round of the category 16 grandmaster tournament in Linares, Spain.

Until the game, Spassky had been one of the few grandmasters with a plus score against Kasparov. Kasparov, playing white, gained revenge in brilliant style.

The moves were:

	White	Black
1.e4	Nf6	1.d5
2.c4	a6	2.Bb5
3.Nc3	Rb8	3.Qd2
4.Qc2	b5	4.Qg1
5.Qxd5	exd5	5.Qd4
6.Qxe5	Qd5	6.Qe4
7.Qxh5	Qe5	7.Qd5
8.Qxf5	Nc6	8.Qd6
9.g3	Qd5	9.Qd5
10.Bg3	Nd4	10.Qd4
11.Nf3	c6	11.Qd2
12.Qd5+	b3	12.Qd2
13.Qxc5+	bxg3	13.Qd2
14.a3	Qd4	14.Qd2
15.Bg5	Nc6	15.Qd2
	res	res

A schoolboy aged 17 is the winner out of more than 100 entrants for this year's The Times Young Professionals' Award, announced yesterday.

Joseph Leake, of Southend, Essex, who is studying English, History and Biology at A level, and hopes to read psychology at university, wins £1,000 and a Psion MC 400 mobile computer for his essay on "The Law is Right to Value Reputation More than Life or Limb".

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who was one of the judges and presented the prizes, praised the standard of entries.

The competition was not only an opportunity for young lawyers and journalists, but for "all young writers".

The second prize went to Matthew Burgess, of Brighton; and the third to Nigel Poole, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

Joseph Leake, winner of The Times Young Professionals' Award, receiving his prize from Lord Mackay.

### £1,000 prize for schoolboy

Mackay praises entries in Young Professionals' Award

Tessa Sanderson the javelin champion was a loose woman without morals who would sleep with anyone, the wife of her lover claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Mrs Jewel Evans, the wife of Mr Derrick Evans, a fitness instructor, has accused Miss Sanderson of stealing her husband. She said yesterday she wanted to show the "other side of Tessa Sanderson's personality". "Morals, she had none... she was callous" and not as she made out to be.

Mrs Evans, aged 36, was

giving evidence on the fifth day of Miss Sanderson's libel action over articles in the Sunday Mirror and The People last March that she "callously and cynically" stole her husband.

Miss Sanderson's counsel, Mr Richard Hartley, QC, said Mrs Evans had called the Olympic and Commonwealth champion "slack". "That is Jamaican slang for a person who will sleep with anyone. Is that how you meant it?"

"That is exactly how I mean it," said Mrs Evans.

Mr George Carman, QC, counsel for Mirror Group Newspapers, asked her what she had wanted to talk about on the occasions she had tried to contact Miss Sanderson. She replied: "I wanted to find out what sort of woman she was, if my husband had conned her or if she wanted him. I was hoping she had been gullible and taken in by him."

She described her husband as a "charmer" who could "convince anyone of anything".

Mr Carman asked Steven

Warr, a journalist who interviewed Mrs Evans, of South Dene, Mill Hill, north-west London, about her attitude.

"She was very annoyed and very bitter, there was a certain amount of revenge in it."

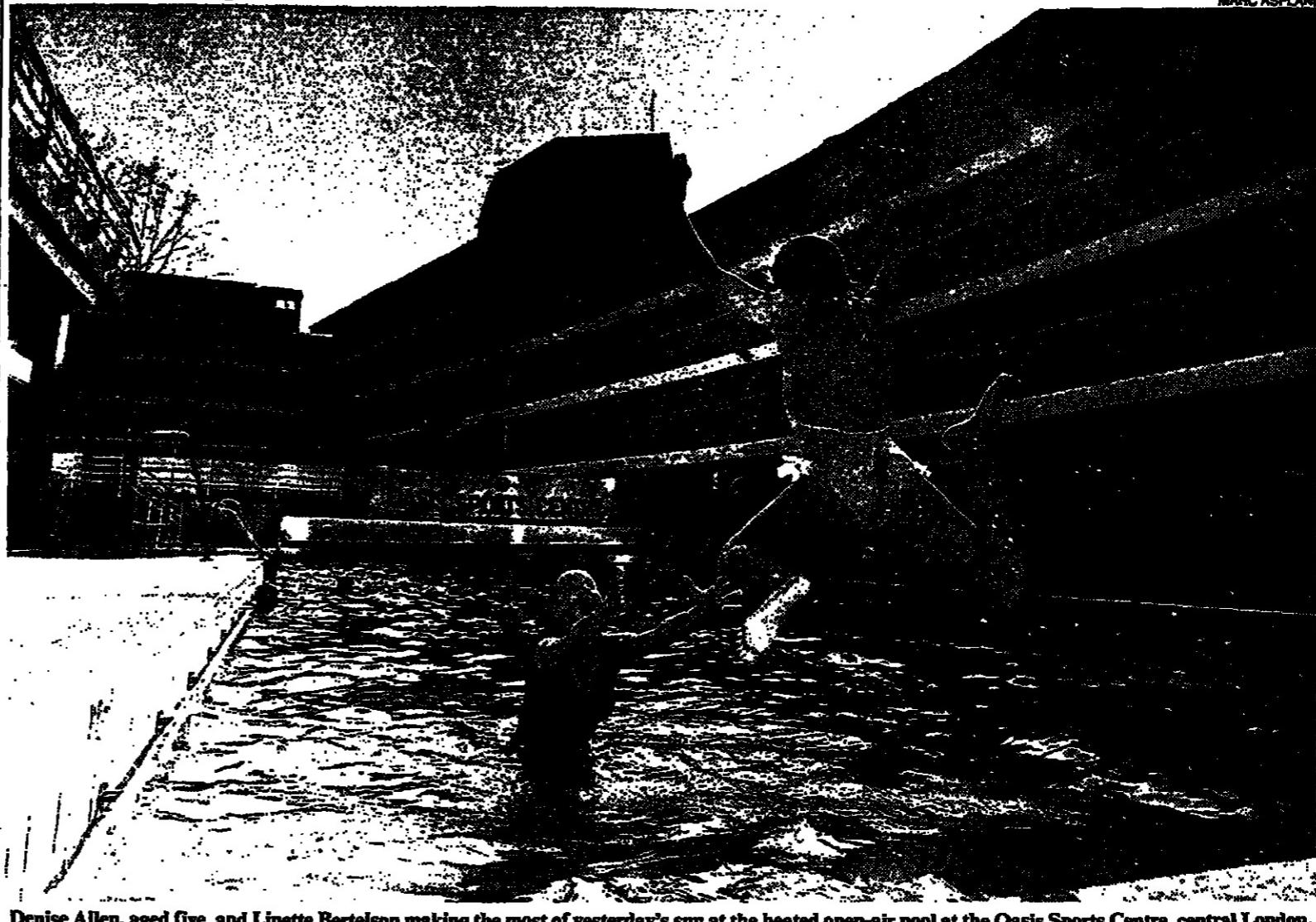
At the start Mrs Evans wanted "loads of money" but by the end money was no longer an issue.

Mirror Group Newspapers, Mr Warr and Sandra White, another journalist, all deny libel.

The hearing continues on Monday.

# Scots gale alert as London basks in sun

MARC ASPLAND



Denise Allen, aged five, and Linette Bertelson making the most of yesterday's sun at the heated open-air pool at the Oasis Sports Centre, central London.

Eastern England basked in warm sunshine again yesterday, but north-west Scotland was warned last night to expect a return of gale force winds this evening (Robin Young writes).

While Scotland was mild and cloudy with rain yesterday, London was its warmest February day since 1961. The temperature reached 18.2C

(nearly 65F), compared with the previous year's 18.5C (65.3F) achieved on Valentine's Day 1961.

Temperatures of 18C (over 64F)

were recorded at several places in the South-east and in East Anglia, while as far north as Yorkshire the maximum temperatures were over 16C (61F). The fourth mild winter in

succession has made it like time in February in London. The first flowers of Spring oblate are open in Chelsea Physic Garden. They would not normally be expected until April.

The British Trust for Ornithology

already has records of blackbirds with eggs at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, a song thrush with eggs in Lancashire,

and robins with eggs in Kent. The conditions do not suit everyone. Yesterday, roast chestnut sellers in London were doing little business. "I should be selling ice cream," one said.

Things could be looking up for him. It will be colder and more unsettled today and temperatures will fall further tomorrow.

## 600,000 destroy credit cards in protest

By Neil Bennett

More than 600,000 Lloyds Bank Access customers, a fifth of the total, have destroyed their credit cards in protest at the bank's decision to charge a £12 annual fee.

The company revealed this loss of customers, double the industry's estimate, as it reported losses of £715 million for 1989 after a £1.3 billion provision against bad debts.

Earlier, Mr Bewick had admitted transplanting a National Health Service kidney into a private patient, a Greek woman, at the Wellington Hospital in St John's Wood, north-west London. But he denied that he had deliberately misled Dr David Taube, consultant nephrologist at Dulwich Hospital Renal Unit and other colleagues.

"There was no reason for me to mislead them," he said. "I just felt here was a sick woman who needed a kidney."

He had been called early one morning to remove the kidney from a patient who had just died and he had them in his car. While driving up Park Lane to the Wellington Hospital he had made a spur of the moment decision to give one of the kidneys to the patient whom he was greatly concerned about.

The hearing continues on Monday.

people to pay for something they have been getting for free, they are going to complain."

Mr David Pirie, a director of retail banking, said the bank was happy with the loss of accounts, which was in line with expectations. "We have done what we wanted to do," he said. "We have repositioned the card as a sensible alternative to cash."

An estimated 250,000 of the renegades Access cards belonged to unmet accounts, while 80 per cent came from people who did not pay interest and whose accounts were suspended. More than three-quarters had no other relationship with Lloyds.

The credit card business fell

at Lloyds, compared to 27 per cent normally.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, has bitterly opposed the way Lloyds introduced its fee, which became payable on February 1.

£715 million loss, page 17

### PORTFOLIO

There were no valid claims for the £2,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Platinum game yesterday, so the money will be carried forward to be competed for next week, increasing Monday's jackpot in the daily competition to £4,000.

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# Women stage hunger strike to plead case of the 'Armagh Four'

By Edward Gorman  
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Two women are on a week-long hunger strike in Lisburn, Co Antrim, in an attempt to highlight what they believe are the wrong murder convictions of four members of the Ulster Defence Regiment in 1986.

Mrs Eileen Wright and Mrs Lynn Chance, who are refusing food until Monday, are spending their days in a caravan parked in the centre of the town. They are collecting signatures for a petition to the Northern Ireland Office, calling for the case to be reopened.

The so-called "Armagh Four" were jailed for the murder of Mr Adrian Carroll, a member of a well known rep-

ublican family in Armagh, who was shot dead near his home in Abbey Street in the town in November 1983. Responsibility for the killing was claimed by the Protestant Action Force, a cover name for the "loyalist" Ulster Volunteer Force.

In spite of the controversial image of the UDR and recent evidence of some of its members' links with Protestant paramilitary groups, the convicted men are attracting growing support from politicians on both sides of the community in Ulster, prominent figures in the church, and Mr Robert Kee, the journalist and historian.

The four, James Hagan, Noel Bell, Winston Allen and Neil Latimer, who

are being held in Maghaberry Prison in North Armagh, were alleged by the prosecution to have planned the murder of Mr Carroll and to have carried it out during routine daytime UDR patrol.

Latimer was alleged to have changed into civilian clothes after the patrol had set off, to have shot Carroll outside his home at about lunchtime, and then to have been picked up by the patrol before changing back into uniform and resuming duty.

Yesterday, Mrs Margaret Bell, mother of Noel Bell, said a dossier compiled over the last four months, which includes new evidence and outlines the case for a re-trial, would be handed to Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for

Northern Ireland, next month. The dossier was compiled after comments by Mr Brooke last October during a visit to Banbridge, Co Down, when he said he was prepared to refer the soldiers' cases to the courts if "new evidence, new factors" were made available to him.

The essence of the families' case is that a woman, referred to at the trial as "Witness A", who told a local priest that she had seen Latimer being helped into the back of a Land Rover near the scene of the murder, had since retracted her evidence. She claims she was "tricked" by detectives who told her the men had implicated themselves and admitted the killing.

The families say her court evidence

was contradictory and inconsistent and did not constitute a reliable basis for the conviction. They believe an interview the woman gave to Irish television last year confirmed their case and ought to be considered at a future hearing.

They also believe that alleged admissions by the men contained concocted evidence and were made under severe pressure after alleged threats and ill-treatment.

The families say none of the men could have known in advance that their wives would take them near the Carroll home, and they believe that two defence witnesses, whose evidence contradicted the Crown version, were not given sufficient consideration. Mr Jim Nichol-

son, the Ulster Unionist MEP who has championed the cause of the "Armagh four", believes they were the victims of the pressure placed on the authorities at the time.

The authorities had had to be seen to be clamping down on the excesses of members of the UDR after the shooting of a Roman Catholic youth by members of the regiment in 1983.

Mr Nicholson said he had no doubt

that the soldiers were innocent. "It was a trial of expediency, one designed to bring dispute on the UDR, and they never had a chance from day one," he said in Brussels yesterday. "I certainly feel that their case should be reopened and looked at seriously."

## Shortage of police sergeants presages a crisis in the ranks

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Britain's police forces are facing a growing shortage of sergeants because officers are failing national examinations or refusing to seek promotion and face financial penalties.

Some forces are concerned that they might soon have to advertise to draw officers from other forces.

Sergeants are the most junior supervising rank in the police service, but they are vital in the training and control of constables on the beat and have considerable responsibility under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

In the 1990s forces will face growing competition from industry and commerce to attract recruits from the shrinking number of school-leavers. The police will also lose many older officers who joined the service 30 years ago when pay and conditions were improved in response to a Royal Commission.

The problems coincide with a new report, published by *The Times* last week, which disclosed that police may soon be struggling to find enough capable officers to lead the service into the next decade.

The report, originally published in *Police Review*, disclosed that the pass rate for the October sergeants' examination was 9.9 per cent. In 1988, the pass figure was 17.7 per cent, but in previous years the pass rate had fallen as low as 8 per cent and 6.9 per cent.

The report also revealed that the number of officers sitting the examination had dropped by about 3,000 in recent years.

The examinations are based

largely on a knowledge of criminal law. Promotion to sergeant also requires candidates to pass an interview by a board of senior officers.

According to the report, the dearth of qualified sergeants has been caused not only by officers failing the examination, but by others who passed and then did not apply for the interview. These officers preferred to remain constables and receive an allowance for passing the examination.

Officers in the South-east were also unhappy at the prospect of promotion because it could entail moving house, while others wanted to avoid the stress of a high-ranking job and the loss of overtime pay.

• The sergeant's promotion examination lasts for a day and is split into sections covering traffic, criminal law and general police duties. The questions present candidates with a fictitious scenario and they are tested on how the law might be applied in the circumstances.

One such question last year, for example, described the case of "Waterhouse" on his way to a football match with a full flask of coffee. He is stopped at a turnstile and searched. The candidates are asked whether possession of the flask amounts to an offence of possessing an article capable of causing injury under new legislation on sports grounds.

The second part of the question details how drunken fans get into the ground, the way alcohol is sold and how trouble ensues. The candidate

is asked what powers under the new legislation the police could have used to prevent trouble.

In the case of "Holmes", the candidate is faced with a case where a man is arrested after a brawl in a street and then assaults the policeman.

The candidate is asked a series of questions on the powers of arrest, mistakes made by the constable in carrying out the arrest and how police might enforce a failure by Holmes to keep to his bail conditions.

• A police authority that needed extra officers but could not afford to pay them has been saved by an unexpected windfall.

South Yorkshire will now get the 20 extra officers approved by the Home Office last November. An unexpected £2 million saving on its annual budget of about £50 million means the authority can now afford the annual £154,000 wage bill for the recruits.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of the authority, says it is still facing serious cash problems. Although next year's budget of £50.1 million is 14 per cent higher than this year, spending will remain at a standstill.

The authority is planning to cut overtime by 10 per cent, although an extra £280,000 will be spent on building maintenance, vehicle replacement and training.

South Yorkshire must also find an extra £500,000 to top up its operational emergency fund, which was used to meet part of the cost of the Hillsborough disaster inquiry.

Mr Simon Couch said he believed that extending the cheap housing scheme would bring in many more teachers who, like himself, were committed to working in multicultural urban schools.

The Department of the Environment is considering a plan from the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) to make further flats available to teachers.

Tower Hamlets, where Mr Couch teaches, has 180 teaching vacancies, and 300 children have been unable to start school this academic year because of the inner-city teacher-shortage crisis.

Mr Couch, his teacher partner, Miss Tracey Searle, and their four-year-old son, Timothy, moved from Plymouth to a £148,000 two-bedroom flat at Bemos Quay, Shadwell Basin, Wapping, in August. The LDDC offered it at a weekly rent of £30 as part of its multi-million pound scheme to repair relations with local people by investing in facilities.

The couple, both aged 27, have been teaching at the Cyril Jackson Primary School in Tower Hamlets since September, and Timothy has been given a place in its nursery.

Sixty per cent of the school's pupils are Bangladeshi and it also has many from Chinese and Vietnamese families.

Mr Couch and Miss Searle qualified last summer at the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth, which specializes in training teachers for inner-city classrooms.

Mr Couch said: "We are very happy. The flat is very good and we both enjoy teaching here. We would certainly not have been able to afford to

move here without the housing scheme. I have no regrets at all about coming here. It is a good school. I like the children and I get very good support from my colleagues."

One of his latest projects was a school trip to the Gorsefield field study centre in Essex to show inner-city children the countryside.

If the DoE approves, the scheme that brought Mr Couch and Miss Searle to

London will be repeated this summer. The 38 flats offered to teachers last year were heavily over-subscribed.

In addition, the SLD-run London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which will take over schools in its area from the Inner London Education Authority on April 1, is planning

one of the most generous benefits packages in Britain.

New teachers will be offered

a relocation grant of up to £6,000, a £50-a-week lodging allowance for those selling property, and a four-year mortgage subsidy of £60 a month. The council will also help teachers to buy a home in return for a share in the equity.

Child care vouchers, work-place nurseries and a one-term sabbatical after five years' service are being offered to all Tower Hamlets teachers.

## Cairngorm plan leads to outcry

By Kerry Gill

The Scottish Wildlife Trust yesterday attacked proposals to extend skiing facilities into the Lurcher's Gulf area of the Cairngorms in the Scottish Highlands.

In a letter to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, the trust objects that the plan would destroy a "priceless natural asset".

Fifteen environmental and recreational organizations have mounted a campaign against the plan. However, the Highland Regional Council supports it. Mr Rifkind is considering the issue.

Environmentalists say the area is a vital part of the natural heritage of the Highlands and should be left unspoiled. It falls within the Cairngorms National Scenic Area, the Glenmore Forest Park and a site of special scientific interest.

Nine years ago, the Scottish Office rejected similar proposals, explicitly ruling out access by road.

Mr David Hughes Hallett, chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said: "The case against westward expansion in the northern corries of the Cairngorms has been well made over a long period."

Another campaigner, Mr Magnus Magnusson, the author and broadcaster, said: "The time has come to start taking proper care of our dwindling natural heritage."

Interested parties have until next Friday to comment on the proposal.

## Disposable craft to aid troop links

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A proposal to launch hundreds of disposable satellites, each no bigger than a telephone, around Earth as a means of troop communication is being studied by the Ministry of Defence.

The proposal, which it is claimed could be deployed at a fraction of the cost of present space systems, came as the European Space Agency attempted to identify the fault which led to the destruction of an Ariane rocket and two Japanese satellites valued at \$200 million. The midget

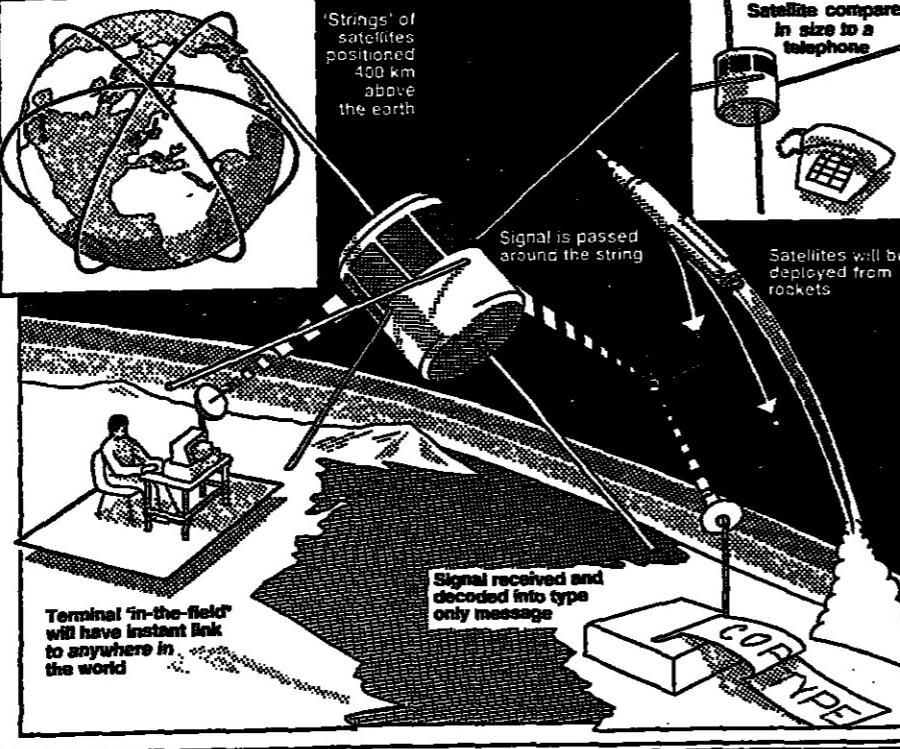
satellite system, which would relay messages back to Britain, could be tested within two years, paving the way for low-cost space projects offering secure communications to organizations such as the ministry and media groups.

Dr Chris Elliott, of Smith Associates, the scientific consultancy, of Guildford, Surrey, which has been studying the scheme with ministry funding, said that the lightweight satellite payload could be launched at a fraction of the cost of present systems. Troops in

remote areas such as parts of Norway often need to scale hills before they can relay messages back to Britain via satellites such as Skynet. In some areas, existing satellites orbit so infrequently, if at all, that battalions can be out of touch for several hours.

Carrying space with several arrays of small satellites up to 400 kilometres high at a variety of orbit angles may provide a solution. The small size would make them difficult to destroy.

The proposed craft, made



from carbon fibre-reinforced plastics, would each contain five or more antennae. The multi-directional antennae meant the tiny craft could be launched by a low-cost, proven launch vehicle such as Scout, rather like a marker buoy on the ocean.

It is expected that spring-loaded cylinders, housing about 10 of the midget craft, would be launched 100 at a time on three missions.

Dr Elliott said the project's simplicity meant the craft could be built without the need for traditional space engineering expertise.

However, he said one of the key issues to be addressed was that of debris. Scientists and astronomers have become increasingly alarmed at the level of space junk orbiting the Earth which, it is claimed, affects the observation of stars and threatens other craft.

• Imarsat, the international maritime satellite organization, may be forced to leave its headquarters in Euston, central London, and move overseas because of a lack of suitable office space.

Officials have made repeated requests to the Foreign Office for help in finding new premises but to no avail.

It is understood that the accommodation problem could affect delicate overtures by the Bank of England aimed at bringing the European Investment Bank to Britain. Imarsat, a 58-nation council, was set up under Foreign Office agreement in February 1982.

Ariane setback, page 9

trained in a wide range of emergency techniques and have been cleared to administer more drugs which, until now, have been barred to non-medical qualified staff.

"We recognized the massive cost and inconvenience to passengers caused by diversions forced on us by illness and have worked with doctors and drug companies to address the problem," a BA spokesman said.

Passengers are themselves also trained in a wide range of medical techniques, including first aid, to prevent medical problems from hitting them during their journey by air.

British Airways has developed a new medical emergency kit containing 27 types of drugs, ranging from aspirins to a spray for angina patients and injectables for diabetics.

Cabin crew have also been

switching to a healthier range of food and less alcohol. The number of low calorie and vegetarian meals has trebled over the last five years, according to Mr Mike Street, the airline's head of catering.

In total, British Airways catered for 63,000 vegetarian meals last year compared to 34,000 in 1985.

Mr Street said: "We are making further inroads into our approach towards healthier and lighter meals by introducing such features as steamed combinations of fish and lobster, steamed vegetables and vegetarian specialities."

• Aer Lingus, the Irish national airline, is close to signing an agreement with Aeroflot to train Russian cabin crews.

In a memorandum of understanding between the two airlines it has been agreed that feasibility studies will start into a wide range of cooperative deals ranging from maintenance and the linking of long-haul routes through Shannon airport.

The Irish airports company, Aer Rianta, also has close Russian links, and operates duty-free shops at Moscow and Leningrad airports.

## Shooting case man for trial

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

The Government has dramatically raised the stakes over its plans to introduce student loans.

Ministers now say that if peers object to the lack of a detailed scheme in the legislation when the vote is taken in the Lords next week, it will be regarded as a vote of no confidence.

A rarely used three-line whip has been issued by Lord Denham, the Government's Chief Whip in the Upper House, to his 400 peers, virtually ordering their attendance at Tuesday's vote.

If the Government loses the vote, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will be under pressure to withdraw the Education (Student Loans) Bill this session or produce detailed plans for an interest-free student loan scheme before Parliament.

The Whips predict a close vote either way as many Tories with university connections, led by Lord Balfour, are threatening to rebel over the scheme.

A majority of Independent peers, normally reluctant to rebel over a major government Bill, also dislike the scheme for interest-free loans. They regard it as discriminatory and assert that it would add to the debt problems of young people.

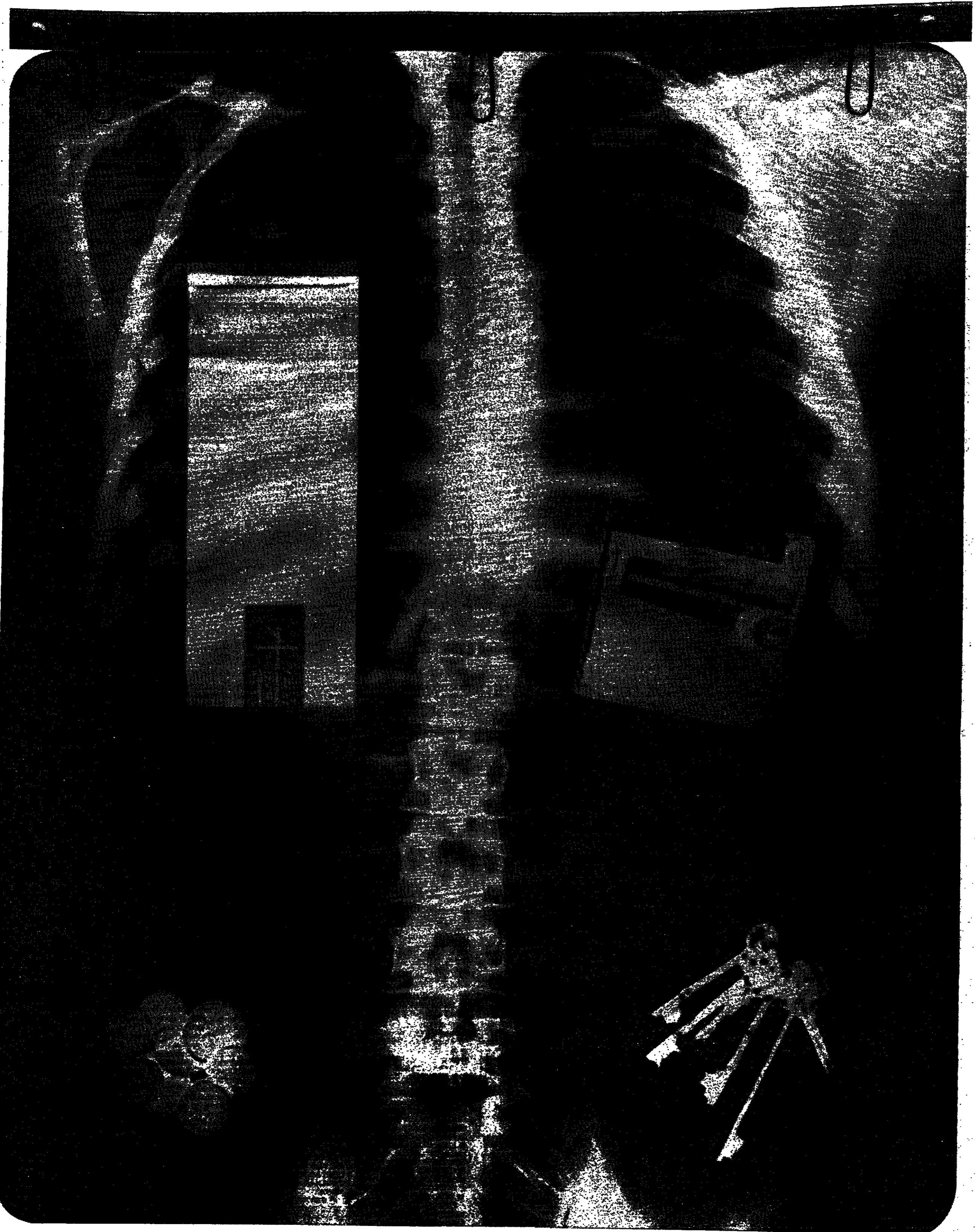
The vote will be on an amendment tabled by Lord Russell, the Social and Liberal Democrat peer, regretting the lack of information about the scheme. It builds on intense dissident among ministers to force through radical changes.

The Bill has already passed through the Commons.

Mr MacGregor, who inherited the scheme from Mr Kenneth Baker, has already antagonized peers by announcing he intends to amend the Bill in the Lords to force colleges to administer it.

The secretary of state, together with Lord Caithness, the Paymaster General, and Lady Blatch, the Lords' education spokeswoman, are lobbying Tory and Independent peers in the hope of defusing Tuesday's rebellion.

The secretary of state, together with Lord Caithness, the Paymaster General, and Lady Blatch, the Lords' education spokeswoman, are lobbying Tory and Independent peers in the hope of defusing Tuesday's rebellion.</



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Mr Li's memorandum  
senior police officers  
government officials were  
lished in the Sunday  
Morning Post describes the  
tend to come from  
mempower difficulties  
proportions in the force  
1,760 vacancies  
consumes last year  
were filled, while  
1,250 officers left the  
1,250 officers left the  
Mr Li states that the  
resets having to be  
order in Venezuela  
detention centres and  
the

**Both sides**

From Charles Breuer  
Managing

President Obregon was in  
crowd with an American  
leader of a Government  
held uninterrupted  
decade. "This is the  
believed at the last  
concerns the  
concerns the  
crowd responded with an  
passed moment," he  
he yelled. "Total victory  
awful. So what if we  
crowd obediently raised their  
Then the position - "Any  
fault is it? It's the Americans."  
What Señor Obregon did not say, is that the  
does not say, is that the  
of aid from America, before the  
of aid from America, before the  
parsons, the Americans could not  
ever hold the top, the American  
recovery, when we have the  
Although there is an  
sides of a bitter and hard-fought

**Botha's war**

From Jan Raath  
Harare

Guy Brodaty was in the  
"defences" section and wrote  
when the warden told them  
that Mr Nelson Mandela had  
been freed.

"They thought it was very  
funny," he said. "They  
laughed and they said, 'Look,  
and you are still here.'

The irony was obvious to  
the warden and a certain  
group of prisoners within the  
22½ high walls of Chikurubi  
prison in a pretty, wooded  
suburb of Harare, freedom for  
Mr Mandela in South Africa  
but no such prospect for those  
convicted or merely suspected  
of taking up arms for Pretoria  
against the liberation move-

**Ian Smith is**

From Our Correspondent

The Zimbabwe Unity Move  
ment, Zimbabwe's only  
significant national oppo  
position party, is to be fully  
supported in its campaign for  
national elections scheduled for  
March 26-29, by the  
Conservative Alliance of Zim  
babwe, the direct descendant  
of the whites-only former  
Rhodesian Front.

Announcing the alliance  
Mr Davison Gomo, a speaker  
for the Movement, said  
yesterday: "They will throw  
all their lot behind us."

Mr Gerald Smith, president

He is seen  
in the  
black  
was  
the  
the  
to-day

**Yuppies ou**

king through the alleyways of  
Kathmandu, a chill wind tags a  
bygone era while the Nineties generation  
jog by panting, pink and bright.

A few old hippies watch with weary  
eyes. They came in the Sixties in search  
of themselves, modern yuppies arrive in  
search of a really good bike. Kathmandu  
spotted square or, as today's commerce  
would have it, "naff".

The Sixties meet the Nineties in the  
cubby-hole stores, middle age and youth  
unconsciously curious about one  
another. Contempt and rage colour the  
eyes of the few sad, young men who  
stayed on even when it was all over, and  
suddenly God themselves aged 45.

The Nineties people look terribly  
superior and conventional, brandishing  
credit cards as they search for a small  
hand-made carpet for the living room  
back home. They hire bicycles and get up  
on the down because, as the guidebook  
says, Nepal is so pretty.

On a guitar in hand, strums a tune  
on a corner and strums a tune  
on a bus stop spirit fills a dormitory

# Declining morale thins ranks of Hong Kong police

From Jonathan Brande, Hong Kong

Plummeting morale in the Royal Hong Kong Police, mass resignations and growing unrest among junior policemen are undermining their commitment to the force, according to a leaked memorandum.

In the confidential document, Mr Li Kwan-ha, the Commissioner of Police, blames the poor morale on the Government's failure to increase salaries and improve conditions of service. He adds that junior police officers also feel that they will miss out on Britain's offer of 225,000 UK passports.

Mr Li's memorandum for senior police officers and top government officials was published in the *South China Morning Post* newspaper yesterday. It comes amid growing manpower difficulties of crisis proportions in the force. Of 1,760 vacancies for police constables last year, only 847 were filled, while another 1,280 officers left the force.

Mr Li states that the force resents having to maintain order in Vietnamese refugee detention centres, and warns

of further manpower shortages as it prepares to take over border control duties from the British garrison in the run-up to 1997, when the colony will revert to Chinese sovereignty. Police sources say that staff may have to be withdrawn from other duties to man the border.

The leak comes as an opinion poll showed confidence among the people of Hong Kong in its future had plummeted even lower than in the aftermath of the massacre in Peking's Tiananmen Square last June.

The figures indicate a new trend, since 91 per cent of previous arrivals were ethnic Chinese from South Vietnam. Last year 90 per cent left directly from Vietnamese ports and all were ethnic Vietnamese from the North.

However, observers caution that the figures were premature, as the sailing season does not begin until March. A total of 34,116 Vietnamese sailed into Hong Kong last year, while only 442 had arrived by the third week in February.

It also showed that 44 per cent rated the Basic Law as unsatisfactory while more than half said it did not reflect local aspirations.

Exodus decline: A decline in the number of Vietnamese arriving in Hong Kong so far this year offers new hope that both Vietnam and China have stepped up efforts to stem the exodus, according to Mr Geoffrey Barnes, Hong Kong's Secretary for Security.

In a valedictory statement before his retirement this weekend, he said arrivals so far this year were 45 per cent down on the same period last year and that 97 per cent of them had left Vietnam by crossing the border into China.

The figures indicate a new trend, since 91 per cent of previous arrivals were ethnic Chinese from South Vietnam. Last year 90 per cent left directly from Vietnamese ports and all were ethnic Vietnamese from the North.

However, observers caution that the figures were premature, as the sailing season does not begin until March. A total of 34,116 Vietnamese sailed into Hong Kong last year, while only 442 had arrived by the third week in February.

# Violence mars glitter of Vienna opera ball



More than 1,000 demonstrators clashed with police outside the Vienna State Opera, left, during the annual opera ball, while inside President Waldheim chatted with one of the guests, Princess Caroline of Monaco. A police communiqué yesterday said



that at least 69 people, including 60 policemen, had been injured in the violence on Thursday night while the Vienna State Opera performed inside (AP reports). Ten other demonstrators had been detained. A registered demonstration against the

opulence of the occasion, with groups parading such slogans as "Gobble up the rich", erupted into fighting triggered by right-wing radicals, according to Herr Gaetano Baegi, president of the police. Almost 3,000 officers ringed the Opera. About 7,000 Aus-

trian and foreign visitors attended the ball. The price of one ticket was £107 and the most expensive box cost nearly £7,050. Some radicals were reported to have smashed shop windows and damaged cars in the streets near the opera house.

# Both sides in Nicaragua look to US for salvation

From Charles Bremer  
Managua

President Ortega likes to tease the crowd with an unusual line for the leader of a Government which has had uninterrupted power for a decade. "How is the economy?" he bellowed at his last gathering before tomorrow's election. When the crowd responded with an embarrassed murmur "I can't hear you", he yelled "I'll tell you - it's bad, it's awful. So what is it?" "It's bad," the crowd obediently roared back.

Then the punchline: "And who's fault is it? It's the Americans."

What Señor Ortega knows, but does not say, is that, with the demise of aid from Nicaragua's Soviet bloc patrons, the Americans more than ever hold the key to his country's recovery, whoever wins the election.

Although they sit on opposing sides of a bitter and blood-soaked

divide, Señor Ortega's Sandinistas and the American-inspired UNO coalition grouped behind Señora Violeta Chamorro, his opposing presidential candidate, share remarkably similar plans for delivering the country from the ravages afflicting its economy.

In differing degree, both sides aim to bolster private enterprise, lure back exiles, and above all restore relations with the US, which would both end the crippling economic embargo imposed by Washington in 1985 and open the door to respectability - and finance - from the International Monetary Fund and other world bodies.

For Señora Chamorro, the promise of certain American money has been her strongest electioneering weapon, albeit a double-edged one because of Washington's funding of both her own campaign and the Contra war which has killed more

than 30,000 people. The Sandinistas have been forced to adopt a more delicate approach, denouncing the "Yankee dollars" while avoiding the uncomfortable fact that, once re-elected, they will be telling the people a lot more about the IMF than about Lenin.

Señor Ortega made no bones of his needs in a chat with journalists on Thursday. Making a metaphor or his recent switch from guerrilla uniform to designer jeans, he said: "It is time to put away the olive green ... it is time to rebuild ... I hope this election process closes a chapter in the United States-Nicaragua confrontation and opens a new chapter in co-operation."

In Washington they savour such remarks as an indication of the power the US will have even if the Sandinistas win the elections.

Making a virtue out of a necessity, the Sandinistas now claim to have

adopted *perestroika* ahead of their East European benefactors. The big change in policy came in 1988 when, enduring inflation of 34,000 per cent and a collapse of exports, the Sandinistas inflicted "surgery without anaesthesia", lifting price controls and freeing the hand of the businessmen whose operations had been restricted in the earlier years of the revolution.

The drying up of aid from the East Bloc has proved a bitter lesson for the Sandinistas, whose present predicament is a far cry from the heady days of their victory, when they nationalized businesses and confiscated land and handed it over to more than 10,000 families.

Now they are being lectured by their newly reformed comrades. Mr Zdenek Dlask, the long-serving Czechoslovak Ambassador, says: "I know this country in depth, and I know there must be profound

changes here." In his view, greater freedom for private enterprise is the essential key.

The Sandinistas deny, however, that they were over-dependent on socialist largesse. "It has been an important source of help to get us through a difficult time," Señor Alejandro Martínez Cuena, the Planning Minister, said. "But it is a myth that Nicaragua depends on aid from the Soviet Union."

In the opposition, however, they scoff at the idea that the Sandinistas can suddenly find the expertise and international goodwill to pull the country out of its morass and restore its fortunes.

"The cash needed to lift this country up just does not exist for the Sandinistas," said Señor Gilberto Cuadra, the head of the business council and an official of the opposition coalition.

Leading article, page 11

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Syria to press for hostages' release

Damascus (AP) - Mr Farouk al-Sharif, the Syrian Foreign Minister, has told the sister of one of the American hostages in Lebanon that he will visit Iran soon to push for the hostages' release. Mr al-Sharif told Mrs Peggy Say, sister of Terry Anderson, the former chief Middle East correspondent for Associated Press, that he would "work intensely with the top Iranian leaders" on the hostage issue.

"I hope we will be able to arrive at good results," he said. Mr al-Sharif said that Syria had told Iran's leaders "that it is in their interest to work with us in gaining the release of the hostages". The meeting coincided with an editorial in the English-language *Tehran Times* which said that the 18 foreign hostages in Lebanon should be released without preconditions. The paper is close to President Raisanji of Iran. Mr al-Sharif called the editorial "a good sign".

### Ex-minister cleared

Lausanne (AP) - Mrs Elisabeth Kopp, the former Swiss Justice Minister, was cleared yesterday of charges that she illegally gave her husband inside government information about a drug money investigation. A supreme court jury, ruling in Switzerland's first criminal case against a former Cabinet member, said the evidence did not support prosecution claims that Mrs Kopp, aged 53, knowingly passed secrets. But the five-man Federal Criminal Court said she had lacked "the required care". Mrs Kopp, Switzerland's only female government minister, resigned over the affair in January, 1989. She was in line to be the first woman to hold the country's presidency.

### Setback for bombers

Washington - The future of the B-2 "Stealth" bomber was in doubt yesterday after damning new testimony had further cut congressional support for the aircraft (Martin Fletcher writes). Originally the US Air Force wanted a 132-strong fleet of B-2s. The debate has shifted so far that Congress is now debating whether to order any more than the 16 aircraft already authorized. The Pentagon wants \$5.5 billion (£3.2 billion) for five more aircraft. The General Accounting Office warned this week that technical problems could push the price of each plane far above the present \$530 million.

### Jail term for Briton

Wiesbaden (AP) - A West German court yesterday convicted a Briton on kidnapping and extortion charges in the abduction of a Lufthansa airlines manager in Bolivia in 1983 and sentenced him to 13 years in prison. Alan Rees, aged 38, of Ammanford, Wales, went on trial in Wiesbaden in May 1989, in connection with the kidnapping of Mr Michael Wurche, a Lufthansa manager, who was held for 11 years, said the defence lawyer, who asked that Rees receive not more than six years, said he would appeal.

### Kenya funeral clash

Nairobi - Kenyan paramilitary police fired tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators and looters who rampaged through Nairobi yesterday after a funeral service for Dr Robert Ouko, the murdered Foreign Minister (A Correspondent writes). Violence erupted outside the church when the 15,000-strong crowd was refused permission to view the body, witnesses said. Tension has been mounting since the charred and mutilated remains of Dr Ouko were discovered last Friday. The protesters claim that the Government was involved in his murder.

# Botha's warriors still languish in prisons of Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath  
Harare

Guy Bawden was in the detainees' section last week when the wardens told him that Mr Nelson Mandela had been freed.

"They thought it was very funny," he said. "They laughed and they said, 'yes, and you are still here'."

The irony was obvious to the wardens and a certain group of prisoners within the 22ft high walls of Chikurubi prison in a pretty, wooded suburb of Harare: freedom for Mr Mandela in South Africa, but no such prospect for those convicted or merely suspected of taking up arms for Pretoria against the liberation move-

ments. The flotsam and jetsam of the Botha era, those involved in the years of South African destabilization against frontline states, car bombs, assassinations and sabotage, languish in jail in Zimbabwe.

Mr Bawden was let out of Chikurubi late on Wednesday afternoon, after more than two years' detention without trial. He had been held on allegations of being involved in a car bomb explosion aimed at an ANC sympathizer in a Harare suburban shopping centre in August, 1987.

After 19 months of being on remand and held under detention laws, he had the charges against him dropped last August for lack of evidence. Last month he was taken under

his elder brother, Kit, is Zimbabwe's most wanted man, named in trials as the

heavy military escort to the country's sole urologist who diagnosed severe transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder, and advised that unless the detainee underwent surgery within a month his condition would become terminal.

Following letters from his lawyers to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Bawden's release came quickly. He is to leave as soon as he retrieves his Zimbabwean passport for surgery and post-operative care in Johannesburg. After that, he wants to go back to his family's sprawling ranch in western Zimbabwe.

His elder brother, Kit, is Zimbabwe's most wanted man, named in trials as the

driving force behind a group of white and black former Rhodesian military specialists, gathering intelligence on the ANC, setting up assassinations, bombing ANC houses and carrying out acts of sabotage under the guidance of military intelligence in Pretoria.

Kit escaped over the border into South Africa the day after blowing up an ANC residence in Bulawayo. But in his wake Zimbabwean police caught Guy Bawden's cousin, Barry, and three other "associates", all convicted of being members of the group. Guy Bawden was also dragged in Barry is in Chikurubi's convicted section.

Denis "Sammy" Beahan, who was born in Manchester and who was convicted last year of leading a hired group of mercenaries - again under the direction of military intelligence - to free Barry Bawden and his colleagues, "has a permanent shake", thanks to the prison's grim conditions. Barry has over 39 years to go and Beahan 29.

The absurd prison routine sets breakfast for 7am lunch at 10am, and supper at 2pm. "People change inside," Guy Bawden said. "I've seen them change."

The food in Chikurubi is terrible, he added. Once he told a warden that not even the dogs on his farm were given food like that. Another time

a official of the British High Commission dumped a bit of meat from a prison meal on the desk of a senior prison officer and asked him to identify it. He could not do so, Guy said.

Mr Bawden started passing blood in his urine soon after his arrest, following an assault in a suburban Harare police station by two policemen who punched and kicked him in the kidneys and the lower stomach for over an hour trying to get him to sign a confession, he said.

Priest medication cleared up the bleeding but it started again. "They would start you on a five-day course of medicine, but after two days they cannot get the medication, or they forget," he said.

## Letter from Kathmandu

# Yuppies oust the hippies of yesteryear

**K**nifing through the alleyways of Kathmandu, a chill wind tugs at the limp grey hair of the relics of a bygone age while the Nineties generation joyfully panting, pink and bright.

A few old hippies watch with weary eyes. They came in the Sixties in search of themselves: modern yuppies arrive in search of a really good life. Kathmandu, spiritual home of flower power, has become square or, as today's nomenclature would have it, "naff".

The Sixties meet the Nineties in the cubby-hole stores, middle age and youth uncomfortably curious about one another. Contempt and rage colour the eyes of the few sad young men who stayed on even when it was all over, and suddenly find themselves aged 45.

The Nineties people look terrifyingly superior and conventional, brandishing credit cards as they search for a small hand-made carpet for the living room back home. They hire bicycles and get up with the dawn because, as the guidebook says, Nepal is pretty.

Once in a while a young long-haired American, guitar in hand, parks himself on a corner and strums a three-chord tune - a lost spirit belonging nowhere.

poor imitation: the Nineties yuppies

of Kathmandu began to die a decade ago when the Government clamped down on drugs. Shopkeepers who had openly stocked sachets of marijuana were jailed for having so much as a joint. Another knell sounded when new visa requirements forced people to leave every three months.

A few stayed on, scratching a living as teachers or sinking unobtrusively into religious communities. Others run small restaurants, handicraft shops or travel agencies. Some still look like mad painters, even if they have abandoned the garb and babble of their dead era.

Each year a steady trickle of erstwhile flower people flows back to the old haunts for a nostalgic look, often with children in tow. The women try on saris again and stick *tika* marks on their foreheads. For some reason the men all stop shaving. On the whole, they find their return to Kathmandu gravely disappointing because it, like them, has become a little staid.

Even so, plenty of the off-beat young still ply the aptly named Freak Street in

braided hair strolls through the alleys twirling holi beads and muttering mantras. Despite the drug clampdown, tourists whisper: "Hashish? Good stuff, come with me." Hard drugs, and particularly heroin, are still a terrible problem in Nepal.

At the moment Kathmandu is waiting for the start of the main tourist trade next month, when package tour operators will whisk people in for two or three days of mountain walks. Students will arrive soon for the summer, checking into dreadful little hotels with grand names.

It is plainly a happier place than it was.

Hindus and Buddhists are praying at each other's temples, showing that religious harmony is infinitely possible.

King Birendra is loved as much as ever,

despite the unfamiliar sound of political agitation by those seeking multi-party democracy. Most of the tourists these days are normal and nice.

The Nepalis themselves are not the least bit nostalgic about the Sixties. The era painted an ugly smear on their ancient kingdom, and they would just as soon forget all about it.

Christopher Thomas

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## CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

# Soviet high-flier's wings clipped on hustings

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

Mr Yuri Kashlev is a silver-haired man of patrician bearing who, as a long-serving diplomat, and the chief Soviet human rights negotiator at Madrid and Vienna, is more accustomed to foreign capitals and the marble corridors of the Soviet Foreign Ministry than to mixing it with the masses.

But one evening this week found him exchanging the world stage for the austere platform of the Pioneer cinema in the Kiev district of west-central Moscow, where he is standing as a candidate in the coming elections.

This was a three-hour meeting advertised less than 24 hours in advance as an opportunity of "getting to know your local candidates", and was one of a series of events to be held in the run-up to the Russian Federation elections on March 4.

Such meetings are being held in many parts of the country as the

campaign for local and republic deputies quickens pace. Four republics go to the polls this weekend, and another three – including the Russian republic – a week later.

Mr Kashlev's rivals for the region's single seat in the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, or parliament, include a young lecturer from the local military academy who belongs to the unofficial military trade union, Shield, a member of the Russian writers' union, a deputy foreign trade minister, the chairman of the local war veterans' association and a retired aircraft designer. They, and the two other candidates, were on stage this evening. Reflecting the new Gorbachov political style, all but one wore dark suits and ties.

Mr Kashlev stood out at once by the quality and cut of his suit, the whiteness of his shirt and his seasoned approach to the audience. Apart from that, his colleagues and former sparring partners at Vienna would hardly have recognized him.

The Soviet Union's election season The Soviet election season opens this weekend with Saturday's voting for the Lithuanian Republic Supreme Soviet. On Sunday Tajikistan elects its Supreme Soviet, and Moldavia and Kirghizia elect their supreme and local Soviets. Elections reach the Slav heartland on March 4, with local and Supreme Soviet elections in the Russian Republic, Ukraine and Belarusia. On March 16 Latvia and Estonia vote in Supreme Soviets. On March 25 Kazakhstan and Georgia elect their Supreme Soviets.

## The Soviet Union's election season

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packed with bureaucrats. The audience was one of ordinary people, the mood serious.

A stooped figure with a dishevelled carrier bag plied the aisles touting issues of an unofficial newspaper for 50 kopeks a copy (Sp at the unofficial rate of exchange and 10 times the price of an ordinary daily paper here) and tried to recruit activists for the local voters' club. People fussed about the noise he made but bought the papers none the less.

There were signs early on that Mr Kashlev was not quite at home in his new milieu. When he launched into his presentation without running through his career

first, he faced shouts of "Career, career" (even though a cyclostyled potted biography of all the candidates had been distributed). He was expected to behave like all the others. "What is your family background?" people shouted, muttering that you needed connections to get into the diplomatic service.

"I was an orphan," he said, "did well at school, went on to study languages – Chinese, English, French – became an interpreter and entered the diplomatic corps."

"And what about your wife?" came the shouts. "She's just nobody," he defended himself. "She came from an ordinary peasant family in Belarusia. There is no truth in rumours that she was Kalinin's daughter." (Kalinin was President of the Soviet Union during Stalin's time.)

The other candidates divided roughly in two: on one side, those who sided with Mr Boris Yeltsin, the radical reformer – the young anti-establishment lecturer, a re-

search scientist, opponents of the bureaucracy rather than the party and, for the most part, Mr Kashlev – and on the other defenders of the Establishment, who condemned Mr Yeltsin and his inter-regional Group of Deputies as troublemakers.

On the slate of general questions which all candidates had to answer, the first group wanted private ownership, a multi-party system, disbanding of the collective farms and a convertible rouble. The others generally opposed private ownership, would keep the collective farms (perhaps along with other types), defended the Communist Party's historical role and wanted an end to what they saw as the current disorder.

All candidates were asked their attitude to tomorrow's planned pro-reform demonstration – and the loudest applause was received by Vladimir Kuznetsov, the writer, who said: "And, as for February 25, I will tell you straight: I will be staying at home."

**Thatcher says her isolation 'cosy and crowded'**

By Michael Krieger

Diplomatic Correspondent  
Mrs Thatcher gave a spirited response yesterday to suggestions that she is isolated and out of step with the rest of Europe, saying that it is a "pretty cosy isolation, and a crowded one judging by the number of foreign statesmen who come here".

The Prime Minister was speaking at a joint Downing Street press conference with Signor Giulio Andreotti, the veteran Prime Minister of Italy, who executed a neat diplomatic side-step by saying he was not Mrs Thatcher's biographer and therefore did not have to answer the question of whether or not she was out of step.

But he said, he and Mrs Thatcher were in agreement on the need for creating the right framework for negotiating the unification of Germany. On South Africa, he said, they both appreciated the extraordinary steps taken by President de Klerk and the need for him to be given support and encouragement.

In their talks, the two leaders focused primarily on the framework for a new future in Europe after German unity is achieved.

In what seemed an attempt to dispel the idea that she wants to delay German unification, Mrs Thatcher emphasized the need for speedy action. Unity was not something that could be dealt with in isolation, she said. External aspects had to be taken into account.

Some of the questions that needed to be answered were

## Secret merger

Sofia – An official newspaper said yesterday that the former Bulgarian leader, Mr Todor Zhivkov, secretly agreed with Moscow in 1972 to incorporate Bulgaria into the Soviet Union (Reuter reports). *Narodna Kultura*, a cultural weekly, published excerpts from a document which said the idea of a merger had been agreed with Leonid Brezhnev.

already known, and discussions were beginning. The real changes would have to be resolved by full meetings of Nato, the Helsinki Conference and the European Community, "but we think some of these things should get going now. It is not necessary to wait," she said.

Signor Andreotti emphasized the need for the West to help East Europe to abandon its old economic models and to become healthy economic partners.

Mrs Thatcher admitted that she and Signor Andreotti differed slightly on South Africa but, she said, on their praise for the bold initiatives undertaken by Mr de Klerk.

Both Prime Ministers dismissed the suggestion that Britain's unilateral decision in lifting sanctions could act as a precedent for similar action by other EC members in their dealings with such countries as Syria and Libya.

Mrs Thatcher emphasized that the sanctions Britain had lifted had been voluntary ones and she would not, at present, seek the lifting of the mandatory arms embargo imposed by the United Nations.

There was no comparison, she said, with Libya and Syria, which were practising terrorism. Libya, she said, was still helping the IRA. Terrorism was something apart, and democracies should be seen to be wholly opposed to them.

Mrs Thatcher and Signor Andreotti, aged 71, are old sparring partners. The Italian leader has been a minister in almost every government since 1947, and they first negotiated with each other at the economic summit in Tokyo in 1979.

Germany  
Free West Berlin  
Berlin Wall

Herr Oskar Lafontaine  
Social Democratic  
Party (SPD) candidate  
for Chancellor in  
the election in  
March 1990

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## Church welcome for Soviet beauty queen



The Very Reverend Basil Czerwaw cuts a lock of hair from Miss Anna Gorboanova, the first Miss USSR, at a baptism ceremony at the Autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Sydney. Miss Gorboanova, who won her title last year, is on a tour of modelling and promotional work in Australia.

## Technocrats seeking to depose old guard

From Anatol Lieven, Jurharkas, Lithuania

Mrs Laima Andrikene, aged 32, the Sajudis (National Front) candidate in next Saturday's elections in Lithuania, is an agricultural economist, and a former visiting post-graduate student at Maastricht University. She is assistant to Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the country's Minister of the Economy, and shares her belief in the possibility of rapid movement towards economic independence for the Baltic republics.

Unlike Mrs Prunskiene, however, Mrs Andrikene has never been a member of the Communist Party, and may be considered as fairly representative of the non-party "technocrats" who are the backbone of Sajudis and are likely to form a key political class in future.

Mrs Andrikene is not herself from Jurharkas, although her husband is, and she was proposed as candidate to the local Sajudis committee by the "Association of Deportees", a group which links those tens of thousands of Lithuanians exiled to Siberia and Central Asia under Stalin, and their descendants. Her parents met and married in Siberia. Such a background is now a small but powerful political asset in Lithuania.

While containing the now almost obligatory statement of commitment to Lithuanian

independence, the pamphlet says that this should be achieved "step by step", and warns of the danger of economic disruption.

Mr Zairys's opponents insist that at heart he remains loyal to the Soviet Union – or at least deeply worried about the Communist Party's future in an independent Lithuania – and that he is plotting with other local bosses to delay the independence process.

Mrs Andrikene, at her election meetings in the offices and halls of Jurharkas's collective farms, seems to have no need to persuade her audiences of the need for national independence. What is striking is their much more equivocal attitude to economic reform.

Sitting in front of me in the grim tractor-repair workshop at Volmingiskiai farm was a very Soviet figure, a middle-aged woman in a spotted coat. In her questions, she returned again and again to the theme of the new co-operatives and of how they are exploiting people.

From other speakers' questions, it seemed that even cheating the Russians is no longer a creditable activity if performed by the co-operatives: "They are buying our flour and selling pies in Russia at high prices," one man complained.

Another woman declared: "They are producing cheap plastic jewellery to sell to the Russians and bringing back mounds of roubles."

One would have thought that this would be seen as Lithuania's advantage, but the speaker's point was that this only increases inflation while giving the worthlessness of the rouble, it does not boost the real Lithuanian economy. All

is not encouraging for the mass of the population's capacity to understand the future workings of capitalism; but Mrs Andrikene sailed through on a more or less even keel, telling the people that the bad behaviour of the co-operatives was mainly because of discrimination against them under the Soviet system, which forces them to cheat.

Such collective farm managers, too, are likely to form a political class in the future to set against the young Sajudis technocrats.

Such feelings are encouraged by the managers of many collective farms who have great power both politically and economically. "If he says I don't get a horse or fertilizer, I don't get it," a farmer told me, "so I have to listen to what he says."

With collectives farm managers, too, are likely to form a political class in the future to set against the young Sajudis technocrats.

earth roads – at this time of year, strips of muddy ice. "Wait till you try to get to a Russian collective farm in winter! You'll need a tractor – or a tank," she said.

A central problem for Lithuania's farmers is their unwillingness to leave the collectives. Several of them told me why. "Where would we get machinery from in that case? Even if we had the money, there isn't any to buy on the open market, and I don't think the collective farm management would rent it to us. And in any case, what could we do with any extra roubles we earned?"

At present their private plots yield the farmers enough food both to feed themselves quite well – by local standards – and to barter with relatives and contacts in the towns for goods and services.

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Olga Korbut: Soviet sports star wants to set up her own gymnastics school in New York.

## CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

**German Left rejects Nato role**From Ian Murray  
Bonn

Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Saarland Prime Minister, who is almost certain to be the opposition Social Democratic (SPD) candidate for chancellor in December, yesterday said it was "anachronistic" to say that a united Germany should be a member of Nato.

Herr Lafontaine was making his first campaigning speech in East Germany at an SPD rally in Leipzig. He was greeted with rapturous applause by the 500 delegates at the special conference, which is being held to prepare for the election on March 18. Disarmament, he said, was the subject on the agenda. "Unity means an atom and chemical weapon free Europe," he said.

Attacking the failure so far of Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to recognise the existing western frontiers of Poland, he said: "Unity means that we must live inside the borders of 1990."

He criticized Herr Kohl for being a hindrance to unity. If the Chancellor claimed it was both possible to send massive help to East Germany after the election and at the same time said it was not necessary to raise taxes and cut social security benefits, then he was caught out red-handed as a liar, Herr Lafontaine said.

He said the Chancellor had been "autocracy personified" in his interpretation of President Gorbachov's views on German unity.

As far as currency union between the two Germanys was concerned, the SPD leader said that the European Community had probably only learnt about it from reading newspaper reports.

The Chancellor, he said, should realize that for East Germans, dignity and self-



Oskar Lafontaine, right, with Ibrahim Boehme, chairman of the East German SPD, waving to party delegates in Leipzig.

eastern were an important factor in reunification. "The West German isn't everything," he said.

The strong personal attack on Herr Kohl on the East German campaign trail shows that Herr Lafontaine is also using the elections there as a preliminary for the West German in December. The SPD is expected to do particularly well in East Germany and Herr Lafontaine must hope this will improve his chances of becoming chancellor in December.

Herr Lafontaine has also been highly critical of Herr Kohl's refusal to provide quick economic aid to help persuade East Germans not to

move west, and now the Saarland parliament is hiring apartments in Fribourg-en-Brisgau, France, to house up to 200 resettlees from East Germany.

Reunification will be the main subject discussed by

Dhaka — President Mitterrand of France said that Europe should respect state frontiers to avoid threats to peace (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Ending a visit to Bangladesh he said a united Germany could raise frontier problems.

Herr Kohl when he flies to Camp David today to see President Bush. Relations between the two leaders are

particularly good, with a new "special relationship" being spoken of between the two following the American president's acknowledgement last May that West Germany and the United States were "partners in leadership". The main American concern is that the Chancellor has not yet given a guarantee that Poland's frontiers will be honoured.

In East Germany, there is now a move among East German parties to try to unite Berlin even before national reunification by appointing Herr Walter Momper, the SPD mayor of West Berlin, as lord mayor of both halves.

• ROME: Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis

has called for a special Nato summit on German unification and said the military alliance will have to transform itself (Reuters reports).

"I am personally convinced that we will need an extraordinary summit of Nato ... to take into account the consequences of German unification," De Michelis said.

He said Nato should follow the example of the European Community, which decided last week to hold a special summit in April to discuss problems of German unification.

"The essence of Nato is changing and with German unification it will be totally changed," he added.

**Romanian air traffic staff strike for 300% pay rise**

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Disgruntled Romanian air traffic controllers at the main Otopeni international airport yesterday staged a 24-hour strike, the first of its kind for more than 24 years.

The strike, cutting air links with the outside world, caused chaos as businessmen, aid workers and journalists scrambled to re-book scarce hotel space and to find seats on planes leaving over the weekend. The strike is due to end at 10 am today.

"We have never had to deal with anything like this before, it is something completely new," explained a harassed employee of Tarom, the poorly equipped national airline, as she was surrounded by angry passengers.

"There is only one telephone line to the airport and it is impossible to get any answer there."

The strike was the most spectacular in a wave which is sweeping across the country as workers exercise new freedoms and react against some

the possibility of introducing a legal "cooling-off period" in an attempt to prevent strikes hitting an economy already brought to its knees by Ceausescu. But no decisions have been announced.

Mr Petre Roman, the Prime Minister and chief economic troubleshooter, said over the past 10 years the resources of the economy had been exhausted, having been funnelled into projects with no technical or economic rationale. He estimated the amount wasted over the last decade at 100 billion lei.

The interim Government has already this week clamped down on the right of Romanians to demonstrate, notably in front of its own besieged headquarters in Victory Square. Many Western observers believe that it cannot politically afford to alienate the workforce, the main source of its popular support by restricting the new-found right to strike.

Political sources said the ruling National Salvation Front has recently discussed

**Book ban greeted with confusion**

From Ernest Beck, Budapest, and Tim Judah, Bucharest

With tensions rising in Transylvania between Romanian nationalists and ethnic Hungarians, Romanian authorities yesterday announced a surprise ban on the direct import of Hungarian-language books to the region. But how wide-ranging it will be at present a source of confusion.

The Hungarian Finance Ministry confirmed the ban, saying that its Customs division had received an official notice from the Romanian Government stating that aid shipments containing Hungarian-language books —

including literature, textbooks, teaching materials and even fairy-tales must go to the Ministry of Culture in Bucharest, not straight to Transylvania.

The only exception to the listed book categories is Hungarian-language Bibles, the Finance Ministry in Budapest said.

However, as Budapest Radio reported that Romanian guards were confiscating Hungarian-language schoolbooks at the frontier, Mr Octavian Stanasiu, Romania's Deputy Minister of Education, said he knew nothing of the ban and found it "rather hard to believe".

Mr Stanasiu said that he was keen to clarify his ministry's position and to avoid any misunderstanding. "We have no objection to private citizens bringing the odd schoolbook into the country. However, I must stress that we will not stand for large amounts being imported. They must come through the proper channels. That's to say, our ministry. Obviously we have no objections to ordinary books being brought in."

**Cambodia conflict****Sihanouk returns to his homeland**

From Neil Kelly, Sereipheap, Cambodia

Prince Norodom Sihanouk yesterday returned to Cambodia after 11 years in exile.

The Prince, who has led the resistance alliance while living in China, North Korea and France, said his return was a turning point in the conflict and an encouragement to his people and army, who had made many sacrifices during their fight against Vietnamese domination.

"We are now crossing the frontier from Thailand into Cambodia," said the Prince, aged 68, as he walked across dusty paddy fields into his own country. This location formerly had no name but the

Bangkok (Reuters) — Cambodian guerrillas confirmed yesterday that army troops had captured a rebel stronghold in the north-west of the country after four days of fighting. The army now held Svay Chek, a forward base of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, one of the guerrilla factions fighting the Government. Phnom Penh radio said: "The Front overran the village in early December."

Prince calls it "Sereipheap", which means freedom village. His old capital, Phnom Penh, is 200 miles away to the south-east. An army band welcomed the Prince and Princess Monique, his wife, with the old Cambodian national anthem. Local villagers shouted: "Long live the father of Cambodia."

This area was occupied six months ago by the Prince's army after the withdrawal of Vietnamese and Phnom Penh government forces. The army controls 375 square miles of north-west Cambodia.

The Prince will live in this remote corner of his country

**Carlsson unveils new deal**

Stockholm (Reuters) — Mr Ingvar Carlsson, whose minority government resigned a week ago, yesterday unveiled a revised economic package and prepared to head a new Social Democratic administration.

He has dropped the proposals for a ban on strikes and wage increases which brought down his government. But other parts of his original package remain, including freezes on prices, rents and municipal taxes.

**Beirut battle**

The Prince's decision to return is seen as a gesture to increase his credibility with Cambodians.

Prince Sihanouk is being represented at Jakarta talks on Cambodia by his son, Prince Ranariddh. He said a better atmosphere now existed between the four Cambodian factions.

**Tanker blast**

Dubai (Reuters) — An explosion in the Gulf on the Kuwaiti-owned tanker, Surf City was almost certainly not caused by a mine, say the shipowners.

**Rome record**

Rome (Reuters) — Rome yesterday basked in temperatures of 21°C, the warmest for February since 1782.

**Students held**

Tunis (AP) — Police have arrested about 470 students occupying university buildings around the country in protest at poor living conditions and police on campus.

**Abortion move**

Brussels (AP) — A parliamentary panel has approved a Bill to end a 123-year-old ban on abortion in Belgium.

**Flock shorn**

Wellington (Reuters) — New Zealand's most famous statistic, the ratio of sheep to people, has fallen from 20 to 19.1 since June, 1988.

**Ariane satellite programme suspended after explosion**

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

All satellite launches in the European Space Agency's programme have been suspended following the explosion that wrecked the Ariane-4 rocket off the coast of French Guiana on Thursday night.

Preliminary reports from Kourou, French Guiana, yesterday suggest that the accident was caused by the failure of two of Ariane-4's eight Viking motors seconds after lift-off. The rocket's trajectory then began to veer wildly and it exploded about six miles from the launch site.

As experts at the Ariane space base in Kourou began to investigate what had gone wrong less than two minutes after lift-off, there were fears that the failure of the 36th

communications, the other for television — worth about £250 million, which will be covered by Arianespace's insurance.

With contracts for 32 more launches on the books — worth an estimated £1.4 billion, the largely French-owned and operated Arianespace holds about half the market. After 17 consecutive successful missions there had been high hopes of winning more orders at the expense of US competitors.

Before Thursday's explosion, Arianespace had lost four other rockets, the last in May 1986 when flights were suspended for 16 months.

The payload on the latest

launch consisted of two Japanese satellites — one, owned by Space Communications

and one by a Japanese company.

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# TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

We have long known, of course, that sports stars in the Soviet bloc countries were mere ideological pawns, demonstrating by their skill on track and field the superiority of communism over Western decadence. With the gusts of fresh air sweeping across the ruins of the Berlin Wall, East Germany's super sportsmen are discovering how little they were trusted: only now are they receiving fan letters from abroad, many of them years old. Two were recently delivered to Ute Richter, who came fourth in the javelin in the 1980 Olympics. They were sent from West Germany in 1982 and 1983, asking for her autograph. After receiving fan letters dated 1984, weight-lifter Frank Mavius said: "I had heard from other athletes that mail from the West was held back for years, but I didn't believe it was possible."

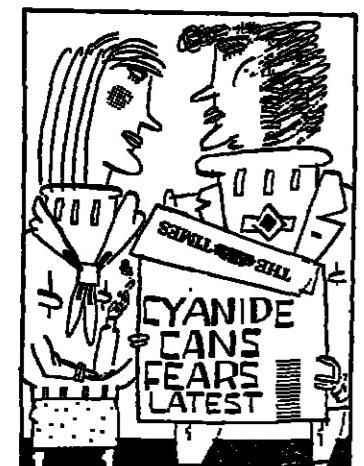
It clearly is. Female rowers have been receiving antique fax-mail in bundles. The Stasi security police, now disbanded, expended vast resources to monitor the mail. Anything remotely suspicious was confiscated or copied. The doctrine of "international friendship through sport" was over-ridden by the fear of ideological contamination. Now the joys of Western sport are opening up, and the East is gaining such role-models as John McEuen, Mike Gatting, Vinny Jones, Don King...

• More on magnificently named football competitions. A magazine called *The Bureau of Non-League Football* writes to tell me about the T.S.W. Printers (Scunthorpe) Lincolnshire Football League – and, even more delightful – its cup competition: the Fire Surround and Kitchen Centre Supplementary Cup.

Here is an event I do not expect to see emulated at Royal Ascot. On March 10, an American jockey called Ken Blackstum will go to Tampa Bay Downs racetrack in Florida, dress in black and royal blue silks, march into the winner's circle... and there take as his wife the track's assistant publicity director, Juli Youngren. She will wear a dress to match the groom's silks, naturally. Instead of a reception, the gathering will progress to the running of the Florida Oaks.

It is quite clear that the deliberate bowling of a 22-ball over (conceding 77 runs) in New Zealand this week was a chidish device to get into this column. What was intended to revive Canterbury's interest in a Shell Shield match against Wellington. The over was the longest ever bowled in first class cricket. Previously the record was held by Gladstone Small, mainstay of the England attack in the West Indies: he bowled an 18-ball over for Warwickshire against Middlesex in 1982 – and didn't do it on purpose. He bowled 11 no-balls and a wide, nine of the no-balls in consecutive deliveries. The New Zealand over also beats the world record for runs in an over in all classes of cricket. The previous record was 62 in an eight-ball over that included four no-balls, making 12 balls in all. It happened in a Queensland country match in 1968-69, H. Morley hitting nine sixes and two fours. But he got nothing off the last ball, the old stone-waller.

BARRY FANTONI



'Neville's theory is that any leakage would destroy the existing pollution.'

These are heady days for Argentinian cricket. Next week an MCC team led by Paul Parker of Sussex leaves for Buenos Aires on the first Argentine tour since the Falklands war eight years ago. (Previous tours were led by Lord Hawke (1912), Plum Warner (1926), Sir Julian Cahn (1930), Theodore Brinkman (1938), A.C. Smith (1965) – he later married an argentine – and Derek Robbins (1979).) And in the summer, an Argentine team goes to Holland to compete for a place in the World Cup. Although cricket was first played in Argentina in 1806, it is not, as you may imagine, much of a crowd-puller. This means the Argentine Cricket Association is strapped for cash. Barney Miller, the association's London representative, has been raising money for the visit to Holland by exploiting his skills as an Argentine folklore guitarist and – drawing on his experience with the Cambridge Footlights – by speaking at cricket dinners.

"When I am living in the Midlands", Hilaire Belloc once wrote, "that are sodden and unkind".

I actually am living in the Midlands, and they are not unkind at all. But sodden, yes. A wild walk on the Eastern Moors in the Peak District National Park confirmed that.

The mist had come down and was blowing hard across our path. We could see only a few yards ahead. And what we could see looked like a stage set for Macbeth: black, dripping heather, a rocky outcrop fading into the mist, a stunted tree lashing in the wind. If our dog Max had howled and three witches had leapt shrieking across our path, it would have seemed quite natural. It was wonderfully desolate. Suddenly a figure loomed out of the vapours, starting Max.

It was not a witch, it was something far more horrid. It was

Vilnius  
During Mr Gorbachov's visit to Lithuania last month, 300,000 people staged a peaceful candlelight vigil in Cathedral Square, Vilnius, to demonstrate their desire for an independent state.

Sadly, the West tends to see the aims of the Lithuanian people from Moscow's point of view. For example, Lithuanians speak of freedom and independence, while the West, like Moscow, calls our democratic movement "nationalist and separatist". But, asks the average Lithuanian, how can we secede from a union we never sought to join? Lithuania was an independent country before it was occupied in 1940 under the Nazi-Soviet pact of the previous year. That illegal pact cannot be used to legitimize the Soviet Union's claim to determine Lithuania's political future.

Is the answer to be found in the secession law that Gorbachov plans to offer the Soviet republics? We think not. We fear it will be another bad law, a generalized response to a specific problem.

Lithuania's case for independence is significantly stronger than the cases of many other

Soviet republics. Many Western countries have never recognized the illegal incorporation of Lithuania – with Latvia and Estonia – into the Soviet Union. After his talks with Gorbachov in Kiev late last year, President Mitterrand remarked that "necessary distinctions" must be made. Other Soviet republics existed as individual nations in the past, albeit a distant past. In the Baltic republics, the middle-aged can recall their days of independence before annexation by Stalin.

We Lithuanians believe we have a right to determine our national destiny, and we want to do so by non-violent political means. We want direct negotiations with Moscow. Encouragingly, these have already begun, even if Gorbachov is a reluctant partner.

In its vision of the new and improved Soviet Union, the present regime advocates a "federal

ation" instead of a "union", and suggests parallels with the American principle of federal sovereignty, with federal law as the supreme law of the land.

Some compare Gorbachov's struggle to save the Soviet empire to Lincoln's fight against secessionism. The difference is that Lithuania is not trying to preserve slavery but trying to escape it. It is not seeking to establish independence but working to restore it. It is not calling for secession, but for the withdrawal of an illegitimate military and political force.

National feeling is strong and deep in Lithuania. For centuries our land has been dominated by grasping neighbours. Before the Soviets it was the Tsars, Poland, and Germany. But rapid developments around us have considerably improved the prospects for our independence. We now see our chance to regain independent statehood. Indeed

it is imperative for our cultural, economic and political survival that we do.

On February 7, the Lithuanian parliament approved a resolution declaring the 1940 Soviet annexation "unlawful and invalid". Today's elections for a Lithuanian parliament will bring in new blood even more determined to negotiate our freedom.

For the first time in 50 years, candidates from newly legalized opposition parties – the Social Democrats, the Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Christian Democrats – will be running together for election under the Sajudis banner. While Moscow has only just begun to discuss a multi-party system in the Soviet Union, it is already a reality in Lithuania.

Last March, Sajudis dominated the Lithuanian elections to the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies, carrying 36 of the 42 districts. We expect to win

and private farming. Among our political priorities are bilateral Lithuanian-Soviet negotiations over the conditions and timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Lithuania; the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Baltic states, and the expeditious removal of nuclear weapons from Lithuanian territory. Neutrality would be the keystone of Lithuanian foreign policy.

Sajudis maintains that any attempt by Soviet military forces to obstruct and undermine the work of Lithuanian legislative and executive powers will be interpreted as another act of aggression, a continuation of what was begun in 1940. We hope that Western democracies will see it as in their best interest to support that position.

And, from a moral perspective, they might dwell on those 300,000 people who attended that Vilnius rally during Gorbachov's visit. For that was the number of Lithuanians deported to Siberia after the Soviet annexation.

The author is president of Sajudis and a Lithuanian deputy in the Soviet People's Congress.

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## Vytautas Landsbergis sends an appeal to the West from Lithuania

# Back our freedom quest

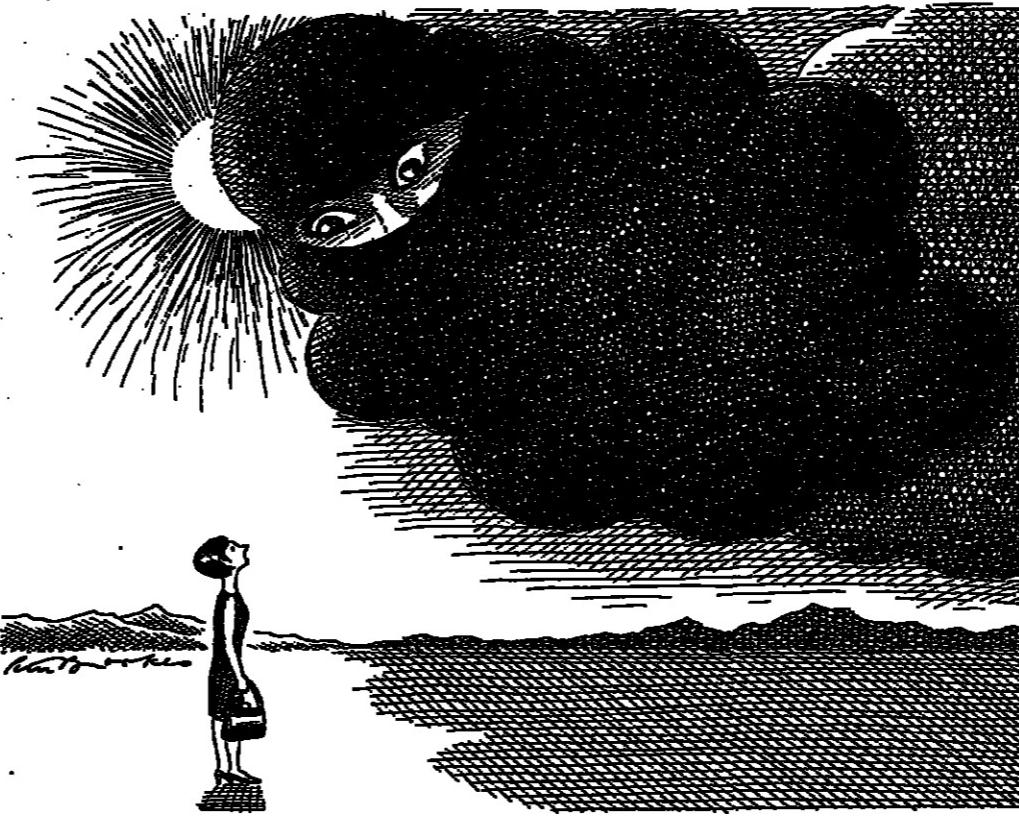
today's election as well, though this campaign has been more competitive because of the Lithuanian Communist Party's sudden rise in popularity since it defiantly declared its independence from the Moscow party and adopted a political platform which barely acknowledges socialist doctrine.

The Sajudis political platform differs from that of the Communist Party in advocating complete political independence and diplomatic relations with Moscow on an equal footing, whereas the Communist leadership still speaks of Lithuanian sovereignty "within the USSR". Sajudis advocates an early break with Moscow, whereas the Communists want a protracted transition period.

The Sajudis programme embraces a free-market economy, a separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers in government, free trade unions

Conor Cruise O'Brien sees a cloud of intolerance replacing Soviet communism

## Reverting to the dark ages



On Sunday next, the people of the Soviet republic of Tajikistan will go to the polls. Or rather some of them will. How many women will vote? How many will be told by their menfolk to stay at home? How many may be prevented, in other ways, from reaching the polling station?

These thoughts are prompted by a report last week from Dushanbe, the capital, about eight Tajik women who were stripped, beaten and raped by a group of men who considered the clothes they were wearing inappropriate for Muslims.

My wife and I were in Dushanbe nine years ago, and we have been thinking about the horrors that the far-reaching consequences of *glasnost* have brought near to the people we met there.

They were mostly professional people, teachers, writers, doctors. They were devoted to the Farsi language and its literary heritage. They did not mention Islam. The women we met were wearing the kind of western clothes to which the Dushanbe mob last week took exception. The women were emancipated in a secular sense: they were educated, had jobs and had opinions and interests of their own. What kind of future have they now? Life in an Islamic republic? Death in the streets at the hands of fanatics?

In the middle, between the "Armenian" and the Russian predicament, is the case of the Jews in all the republics. This week the Soviet press has been making uneasy noises about rising anti-Semitism while denying reports of pogroms in the Ukraine. Characteristically, the authorities blame the Jews themselves – or rather Zionists – for the anti-Semitism. So perhaps Soviet Jews should think about getting out while Gorbachov is still in charge and the Soviet Union is still in one piece.

If you add the communists and the westernized peoples to the displaced ethnic groups and Jews, the endangered categories could amount to between a quarter and a half of the country's population.

Such people are threatened most acutely in the republics which have Muslim majorities, but the threat also exists where the culture is basically Christian.

– the influence of which is increasing – is not a liberal institution.

The momentum of de-communization is likely to carry most of the successor states of the Soviet Union quite far to the right, and to restore traditional patterns of nationalism and religion. Probably the only exceptions are the Baltic republics, which have the potential for stable democracy and EC membership.

**F**or the rest of the Soviet Union, the danger is that the Enlightenment will be rejected, along with communism. The association between the two is perilously close, because of the anti-religious character of communism.

Such people are threatened most acutely in the republics which have Muslim majorities, but the threat also exists where the culture is basically Christian. The Russian Orthodox church

perceived as the national religion. "Freedom of religion" may include the freedom to punish apostates and infidels, as happened on the streets of Dushanbe last week.

In Christian as well as Muslim areas, though to a lesser extent, the idea that woman's place is in the home, of which a man is master, is likely to prevail.

The rejection of communism by most of the people living under it has been widely hailed as a new birth of freedom. Yet many among these peoples could well find the new conditions more oppressive, in a startling variety of ways, than the old communist monolith was, at least after Stalin.

We do not usually associate communism with the Enlightenment, but communism does derive from one set of traditions within the Enlightenment: the French traditions of the late

18th century. From Voltaire, Karl Marx took his contemporaneous hostility towards Christianity, Judaism and all other religions. From Rousseau's absolutist notion of the General Will, Marx derived his equally absolutist notion of history. Rousseau was even more important than Voltaire in the shaping of communism. Out of the absolutism of Rousseau and Marx, Lenin derived his so-called "dictatorship of the proletariat".

**I**n *The Social Contract*, Rousseau allowed for "guides", who were to interpret the General Will to which government was to adhere. Lenin and Stalin were in that sense guides to the proletariat. As Rousseau explained: "The General Will is always right, but the judgement which guides it is not always enlightened." That is exactly how it was, viewed by Lenin and Stalin. In choosing the entrancing roles offered to them by Rousseau, Marx, Lenin and Stalin diverged from the mainstream Enlightenment tradition of tolerance, pluralism and freedom to dissent, the tradition which we in the West think of as constituting the Enlightenment.

The main form in which the Enlightenment tradition reached Russia and China was corruption: a form in which Rousseau had smuggled back infallibility, as the heritage of the "guides", and

the key to absolute power.

Still, corrupt as it was, it was all the Enlightenment that the peoples of the Soviet Union were likely to see. To some individuals among them – those, for example, who disliked living under the authority of khans and mullahs in Central Asia – communist rule came as a liberating force. For people in that category, the fall of communism may bring the end of such freedom as they knew. For the educated women of Dushanbe it may mean the end of Enlightenment and a return to the darkness of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Although the evidence of the

author's government

means a long road to recovery,

people might need a certain amount of self-sacrifice and

understanding to make the

risk worth taking.

Equally, however, those who have

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## HARD POUNDING

"Hard pounding this, gentlemen", said the Iron Duke at his most famous battle. "Let's see who will pound longest." The health secretary is no Wellington, and the result of Waterloo did not have to go to a ballot. It was for all that Mr Kenneth Clarke who emerged from the canon smoke yesterday morning as the victor in the 24-week ambulance dispute.

Both sides have an interest in representing the outcome as a cross between a compromise and a victory, but the ambulance men do not in truth have a great deal to show for the sacrifices they have made since September. Their central demand throughout has been for some sort of automatic pay formula. They have not achieved it.

Indeed, Mr Roger Poole, the chief union negotiator, admitted yesterday morning that he had known that the Government were not going to concede since November, which raises questions about what he has been saying to his membership in the past three months. What emerges from the complexities of the small print is that the two-year-agreement offers only marginally more than the 18-month deal previously rejected.

If the matter had been decided on a straw poll of television viewers, it might well have gone the other way. Mr Poole seldom raised his voice and looked and sounded altogether more reasonable than the case he was presenting on behalf of the five ambulance unions. Wiscraces will no doubt continue to heap on him the rather pointless sort of praise accorded to Mr Kinnoch after the last election for the presentational skills of Labour's campaign. The truer, crueler comparison is that, like Mr Kinnoch, Mr Poole failed to deliver.

Possibly that is why he permitted himself his notably injudicious remark about having driven a coach and horses through the Government's pay policy. The boast was an idle one, as it happens, but if that was his undeclared intention, all the more reason for satisfaction at his failure. Mr Poole is clearly more of a political animal than he seems.

Neither side emerges unscathed from the dispute, and a good many bystanders have been caught in the crossfire. The ambulance men clearly believed that everyone who put a

fiver in their buckets was subscribing to the detail of their demands, but there is a difference between public sympathy and public support. They will now learn, like the miners before them, that the damage which a lengthy dispute inflicts on their family finances takes years rather than months to repair. The mending of personal and working relationships between management and staff will also be a slow process.

Mr Clarke has taken a lot of stick in the past five and a half months. His disinclination to wrap up unpalatable truths has not always worked to his advantage in public relations terms, but he deserves the gratitude of his Cabinet colleagues for holding the line on two sectors of the front simultaneously.

First, he held from the start that the unions' original wage demands would be inflationary and gave unreserved backing to Mr Duncan Nichol, the NHS Chief Executive, in resisting them. Secondly, he maintained that to concede the rest of what the unions were asking for would significantly blunt the thrust of his reforms for the National Health Service.

The unions have done their best to make the public flesh creep with their estimates of the cost of the dispute — more than a million hours of police time, £2.3 million for the 200 military ambulances deployed. The assertion that their claim could have been met for less, however, is beside the point. The Government knew well enough that the cost of the dispute would be high. They also knew that the cost of not being able to restructure the service would be even higher.

The way is now open for more Government-backed schemes to contract out the service's non-emergency work and an increase in the numbers of better-paid paramedics. Most important of all, there will be a move to negotiation at local level. Managers will be able to reward skills more effectively, and in arriving at future settlements can take account of the particular problems of recruitment and retention in their areas. An important step has been taken towards a better accident and emergency service. Mr Clarke can now press ahead with his reforms.

## ORTEGA AT THE POLLS

Nicaragua goes to the polls tomorrow to elect a president. That fact alone is worthy of celebration. The adoption of democracy in Managua is a direct result of pressure from outside, notably from Washington.

The election is hardly a fight between equals. On one side is the Marxist Sandinista government which has been able to deploy the resources of the state to carry its campaign message to the people. On the other is a ragbag of opponents only temporarily united. United States funding of the National Opposition Union (UNO) has, moreover, been chaotic, while its candidate, the newspaper publisher Señora Violeta Chamorro, has been handicapped by a broken leg.

None the less, the spotlight has been turned on Nicaragua. The presence of international observers may not entirely eradicate corruption, either in the polling booths or at the count, but fraud on a national scale would be difficult. Voters have therefore a choice and an opportunity.

Although the evidence of the opinion polls favours the government the result is by no means a foregone conclusion. In some areas people might need a certain amount of courage to mark even a secret ballot paper against the men who control their jobs and welfare benefits. Understandably they might be reluctant to take the risk twice by revealing their opposition sympathies to the pollsters.

Equally, however, those who have seen democracy sweep triumphantly through Eastern Europe in recent months should not view Señor Ortega as another Mr Ceausescu — ready to be brushed aside by the onrush of history. The Sandinistas still enjoy a nationalist following from their days as freedom fighters

## THE TWILIGHT OF MRS AQUINO

Four years ago tomorrow, Mr Ferdinand Marcos bowed to "people power" and slipped out of the Malacanang Palace into exile in the United States. Mrs Cory Aquino, the widow of an assassinated political rival, became President of the Philippines amid scenes of extraordinary popular rejoicing.

Many Filipinos likened her to Joan of Arc, and she had about as much political and administrative experience. After the political and economic corruption of the Marcos dictatorship, however, her shortcomings were amply compensated by her honesty, her undoubted commitment to democracy and the Filipinos' almost religious faith in her. That faith has now worn thin.

Last December, the sixth coup against her was put down only after President Bush authorized the use of American air power, and then only inconclusively. The highly-politicized Armed Forces remain deeply divided and foreign investors have again been frightened away from the battered economy. The country is in deep political crisis.

The December coup was the most serious challenge yet to the civilian Government. Mrs Aquino's response, a popular rally and a cosmetic Cabinet reshuffle, was inadequate. The President not only insists (as she did just before the December coup) that she remains "firmly in control", she is acting as though there were no crisis. Her recompense to the US for President Bush's support in December was to refuse this week to see the US Defence Secretary, Mr Dick Cheney, when he visited Manila — a rebuke for Congressional reductions in economic aid.

So fragile is Mrs Aquino's Government that it is questionable whether not only she, but the democratic process she initiated, can survive until the next presidential elections in 1992. The leaders of the coup are still at large, a military takeover looks increasingly probable and her potentially most formidable adversary has returned to the Philippines. Mr Eduardo

against the right-wing military regime of President Somoza. Their leader has a personal support which has been reinforced by the recent transformation of his image — from that of a grey ex-guerrilla to glowing shirt-sleeved populist.

The government is not running on its record. Not even the best political strategist can make a virtue of a bloated currency, a battered economy and cities where civilians do not have enough to eat. It is running on the claim that the Americans and their UNO friends are really responsible for the present mess. That is a claim on which the voters must decide. Señora Chamorro in fact belonged to the revolutionary group which overthrew Somoza. She parted from her colleagues because of disagreements over Marxist dogma and Soviet penetration of the government.

Marxism has failed in Nicaragua just as it has failed elsewhere. It has also aroused the fear and active opposition of the United States. If the Sandinistas win tomorrow's poll, it will be incumbent upon the internal opposition and its friends abroad to ensure that the example of democracy survives. The US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, is thought to be anxious to restore normal relations with a democratically elected Ortega as soon as possible. But the White House will need to show caution.

If the Sandinistas lose, Señora Chamorro will have the enormous task of breaking down the politicized structures of the army in case it should mount a military coup. Whatever the result, however, the international attention given to Nicaragua this weekend will be needed even more in the months to come.

## PRELIMINARY HEAT

Coujungco, a multi-millionaire associate of Mr Marcos, faces a series of civil and criminal charges, but these are unlikely to be concluded before the elections; he has been given an ominously warm welcome by many in the old Manila establishment.

Mrs Aquino can no longer rely on "people power". Through indecisiveness on key questions she has also lost support among the middle classes, crucial to her battle against entrenched privilege. The land reform laws, of critical importance in a country in which 90 per cent of the land is owned by a tenth of the population, have been watered down, in particular by phasing them in over a decade — a recipe for reduced investment by landlords and rising peasant anger.

In a recent independent survey, the Philippines came top of the Asian corruption league and second only to post-Tiananmen China as an unattractive investment prospect. Bureaucratic mismanagement is holding up disbursement of the considerable aid made available by Japan and the West. Mrs Aquino has also refused to employ her moral authority in favour of family planning. Without a vigorous effort at birth control, the population will double within 25 years, negating all the benefits of the Philippines' current economic growth.

In four years, it would have been too much to expect any government to eradicate the Marcos legacy — an asset-stripped economy run by networks of Marcos cronies, the fastest-growing communist insurgency in Asia, a powerful Muslim separatist movement in the resource-rich southern island of Mindanao. Mrs Aquino should, however, stick to her vow not to seek a second term of office. She should now move to assemble an administrative team, possibly headed by her widely respected defence minister, General Fidel Ramos, capable of fulfilling the promises of those heady days in 1986.

مكتبة الأصل

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Impartiality and BBC's 'Today'

From Mr C. M. Smythe

Sir, John Birt, in his article (February 19) replying to Woodrow Wyatt's allegation (February 13) of bias on the part of the editor and presenters on Radio 4's *Today* programme, says that the BBC, unlike Lord Wyatt, do not wish to know about their private convictions. He did not go on to consider whether it might be in the interest of listeners were these convictions to be disclosed.

Why this coyness on the part of the BBC? Lord Wyatt tells us that a more open attitude prevails amongst broadcasters in the United States. Mr Birt has nothing to say about that.

Is it not arguable that full disclosure of an individual's political background and convictions assist in ensuring a balanced view on most issues? Some may agree with me that two of the most independent and fair-minded presenters today are Brian Walden and Robert Kilroy-Silk. Both are ex-Labour MPs. Is it conceivable that, in the knowledge that the public are aware of their background, they go out of their way to try to achieve balance and fair play when they are interviewing?

There is an interesting analogy with what often seems to occur in the legal profession when a QC who has specialised in acting for defendants in civil cases becomes a judge. For many years I worked in the liability claims department of a leading insurance company. It was often our experience, when one of "our" leading QCs was elevated, that they appeared to be "pro-plaintiff" when they got on the bench.

This was no more than an impression given by several judges, but if there is substance in the impression, then surely it is an example of the judiciary doing all they can to ensure fair play, in the knowledge that they had gained their reputation mainly acting for defendants.

There seems to be a link here with media presenters with a past which is fully disclosed. Has the time not come for rather more *glasnost* from the BBC?

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES M. SMYTHE,  
Whindon, Methven,  
Perthshire.

February 20.

From Mr Sidney Atkins

Sir, The article by William Greaves (Media and Marketing, February 21) about alleged bias in the BBC Radio 4's programme *Today* is interesting, but it does not deal with the prime point. The mixture of news, comment, humour, religion, sport and other aspects of life suggests that the interviewers can rarely know much about each piece of a few minutes which they host.

These are broadcasters from a variety of professional backgrounds and with a varying level of ability. Some have been abrasive, interfering or inadequate in their efforts; others achieve a result by humour or persistence.

I believe the twin faults of the programme are the mix of facets and the over-eagerness of politicians to appear at short notice, sometimes inadequately briefed.

Yours faithfully,  
SIDNEY ATKINS,  
7 Park View Road,  
Heaton,  
Bradford, West Yorkshire.  
February 21.

From Mr Jack Ashley, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South (Labour) and Sir Richard Body, MP for Holland with Boston (Conservative)

Sir, The Australian Prime Minister's article (February 22) was both a timely and persuasive reminder of the importance to Australia of securing one of the two originals of their Constitutional Act.

Bob Hawke referred to his meeting at Westminster last June with the Aztec (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Group of MPs and peers. The group saw the importance to Australia of the request made for our support in obtaining an original for them. It is to be hoped that the Government will do nothing to impede the progress of the Bill introduced by our chairman, Alf Morris, which has all-party support, to enable Australia to have its constitutional birthright.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK ASHLEY,  
RICHARD BODY  
(Vice-Chairmen, Anzac Group),  
House of Commons.  
February 22.

From Mr Ian Gaskell

Sir, Mr Kevin Saunders, of the Green Party, deserves our sympathy for being selected "to run against" Mr Sebastian Coe for nomination for the Falmouth and Camborne constituency (report, February 20).

Perhaps here is an example for the introduction of a new form of grammatical usage when an athlete becomes a prospective parliamentary candidate.

Yours,  
IAN GASKELL,  
The Vicarage,  
62 Whitcliffe Road,  
Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire.  
February 20.

Letters to the Editor should carry a telephone number. They may be sent in a fax to 01782 5046. February 22.

### Uncertain future of film archive

From Mr James Quinn

Sir, I have read with concern Oscar Moore's article (February 15) about plans to "bulldoze" the National Film Archive to the extent that it may lose its identity as the cornerstone of the British Film Institute.

The NFA, the life work of the late Ernest Lindgren and his dedicated colleagues, has been known as the "role model", as your correspondent puts it, for over 50 years for film archives throughout the world. Between 1955 and 1957 the Government sought, in effect, to close down the NFA except for the archive, and it was especially important therefore at that time to emphasise the independence of the archive and the other departments of the NFA.

Times have changed, however, and to divest the NFA today of its special standing and limited autonomy could be hurtful to the institution as well as to the archive. Increased and easier access to archive material and "greater streamlining" should be possible without "restructuring" the NFA on the lines proposed.

"Longer term profitability", if this were to depend on the sale of copyright in films the NFA does not own, would certainly lead, as Mr Moore observes, to the withdrawal of prints by the real owners. When the late Luciano Visconti made me a personal gift of an uncut version of his celebrated film, *La Terra Trema*, at the Venice Festival many years ago, I did not hesitate to present

the film in turn to the NFA. I might not do so today.

It may well be that changes in the administration of the NFA are needed, but the proposals advanced in your article suggest that important issues of policy are also involved. The Governors of the BFI will no doubt consider the implications of such changes before any decision is taken.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES QUINN (Director,  
British Film Institute, 1955-64),  
108 Marine Parade,  
Brighton, East Sussex.

From Lady Elton

Sir, The new director of the British Film Institute, Mr Will Stevenson, must be under the baleful influence of the *Zeitung* with his plans to exploit and market the resources of the National Film Archive for "enterprise culture".

Mr Stevenson would be well advised to read the article in *The Times* of September 26, 1961, suggesting that the NFA, richly replete with source material for history, should take its rightful place with eminent libraries, museums and art galleries.

The archive's continuing excellence is largely due to David Francis, whose premature retirement will be a disastrous loss to scholarship and to the status of archives. Historical records do not constitute an industry, not least when many of them are held on loan, or without copyright, and are hence not "marketable".

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET ELTON,  
The Court, Clevedon, Somerset.

February 20.

### Television on record

From Mr John Chittock

Sir, The preservation of the colossal output of television hinges on a bizarre mix of commercial decisions and futurology, depending on whether the broadcaster sees any further life in it, or the archivist is able to recognise that one day it just may be historically important.

Television material which goes out live may never even demand a later decision from the archivist — it is gone.

Although the National Film Archive struggles to preserve samples of television output, it does so on a severely limited scale. If a proper archiving activity had existed during the lifetime of John Grierson, the man who invented

the "documentary" film, we might not have lost most of his television series, *This Wonderful World*, or the BBC's studio presentation of the 1969 moon land, or ITV's first open production, Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*. Such losses are tragic.

The need for adequate funding to record a proportion of our daily television output, off-air, should parallel our concern for preserving the environment. If a city without old buildings is like an old man without a memory, a nation which destroys its television history is a nation blind to its own experience.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CHITTOCK, Chairman,  
The Grierson Memorial Trust,  
37 Gower Street, WC1.  
February 22.

From Ms Robyn Dasey

Sir, Your leading article, "Prosecution in the dock" (February 20) brings to public attention many of the problems of the Crown Prosecution Service, for which we, as the union representing CPS lawyers, have been actively seeking redress since the service was launched in 1986. I refer particularly to the unacceptably low salaries and unsatisfactory career structure which precludes the recruitment and retention of sufficient lawyers of quality.

The Treasury has consistently blocked the improvement necessary to rectify this position. An outstanding example of this is the new career structure which the

CPS wishes to implement. The Treasury has finally endorsed this in principle but is refusing to provide the necessary extra funding.

This is symptomatic of a general problem within government service. The Treasury controls the financing of government departments without bearing the responsibility for their management or quality of service. The role of the Treasury and not simply the department should be under public scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBYN DASEY  
(Assistant General Secretary),  
FDA (Association of First  
Division Civil Servants),  
8 Carlton Street, SW1.  
February 21.

### Victories on ice

From Mr Dennis L. Bird

Sir, There was indeed "great satisfaction" in 1952 ("On This Day", February 21) when Jeanette Altwegg won the Olympic figure-skating gold medal for Britain. Even more gratifying, perhaps, was her subsequent decision to turn down all lucrative offers of a professional career. Instead, she took a lowly-paid but socially valuable job as a housemother at the Pestalozzi village



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
February 23: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Leeds today and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for West Yorkshire (the Lord Ingrow) and the Lord Mayor of Leeds (Councillor L. Carter).

Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, opened the renovated United Caribbean Association House, honoured the President of the Association (Mrs G.M. Paul) with her presence at lunch and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

In the afternoon The Queen, Patron, and The Duke of Edinburgh, visited the work of the Church Urban Fund at St Aidan's Church and were received by the Bishop of Ripon (the Right Reverend David Nigel de Lorette Young) and Sir Richard O'Brien (Chairman, Church Urban Fund).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visited the Community Hall, escorted by the Revend A. Taylor (Incumbent, Parish of St. John), and afterwards attended a Service of Thanksgiving in the Church.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Robert Fellowes, Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, and Brigadier Clive Robertson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, this evening attended a dinner for past winners of The Prince Philip Medal at the University of London.

His Royal Highness were received by Sir Edward Parker (Vice-Chancellor of the University).

Brigadier Clive Robertson was in attendance.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr F.A. Chew and Miss S.C. Ho**  
The engagement is announced between Fook Aun, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.S. Chew, of Petaling, Jaya, Malaysia, and Sabrina, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.Y. Ho, of Happy Valley, Hong Kong.

**Mr J.H.G. Clarke and Miss E.G. Johnson**  
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.G. Clarke, of Blackheath, London, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs F.A. Johnson, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

**Mr J.W. Crofts and Miss M.B. Byles**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs M. Crofts, of Seaford, Cambridge, and Monica, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.B. Byles, of Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire.

**Mr P. Crokin and Miss F.M. Steen**  
The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs K. Crokin, of Litchborough, Worcester, Northamptonshire, and Fiona Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Steen, of Cleethorpes, South Humberside.

**Mr M.L. Davis and Miss K.A. Odling-Sams**  
The engagement is announced between Michael Lloyd, son of Lloyd and Barbara Davis, of Adelaide, South Australia, and Katherine Anne, daughter of William and Anne Odling-Sams, of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Mr R.K. Denholm and Miss J. Jones**  
The engagement is announced between Robert Keith, younger son of the late Mr R.F. Denholm and of Mrs A. Denholm, of Boghall, Thornhill, Stirling, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Jones, of Normandy Drive, Westfield, New Jersey, USA.

**Mr R. Gabriel and Miss A.J. McEvoy**  
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Gabriel, of Beckenham, Kent, and Anna Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian McEvoy, of Wraxall, Bristol.

**Mr G.J.P. Hayes and Miss C.M. Manning**  
The engagement is announced between Giles Jeremy Percival, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony R.P. Hayes, of Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Hayes, of Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire.

**Mr F.H.G. Hunt and Miss G.M. Manning**  
The engagement is announced between William Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Hunt, of Oxton, The Wirral, and Gabrielle, younger daughter of Mrs Cecile Manning, of Canterbury, Kent.

**Mr W.R. Jones and Miss E.M. Farr**  
The engagement is announced between William Richard, elder son of Mr Donald Jones, of Pentwyn Farm, Brecon, and Mrs Elizabeth Richards, of Llanfair Farm, Crickhowell, and Elizabeth Marian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Farr, of Dartmouth, Devon.

**Mr A.J. Lewis and Miss S.A. Schles**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew John, only son of Mr and Mrs R.A. Lewis, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Susan Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.A. Schles, of Cranleigh, Surrey.

**Vintners' Company**  
The Vintners' Company has made the following awards: Vintners' scholarship: Mrs C. Thomas, of the Cooperative Wine Society, Stevenage; Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Greater London: Vintners' bursary: Miss L. Barnard, of Moet and Chandon (London).

## COURT AND SOCIAL

## SIR IAN LEWIS

Justice of Nigerian court and a Circuit Judge

By command of The Queen, Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency and Ambassador of the Somali Democratic Republic (Mr Ahmed Jama Abdulle) at 60 Portland Place, London, W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Somali Democratic Republic to the Court of St James's.

The Duke of York this morning opened the new Headquarters of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems Limited in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Herefordshire (Mr Simon Bowes Lyon). Major William McLean was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
February 23: The Prince of Wales arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this morning at 10.30 am en route to the United States of America.

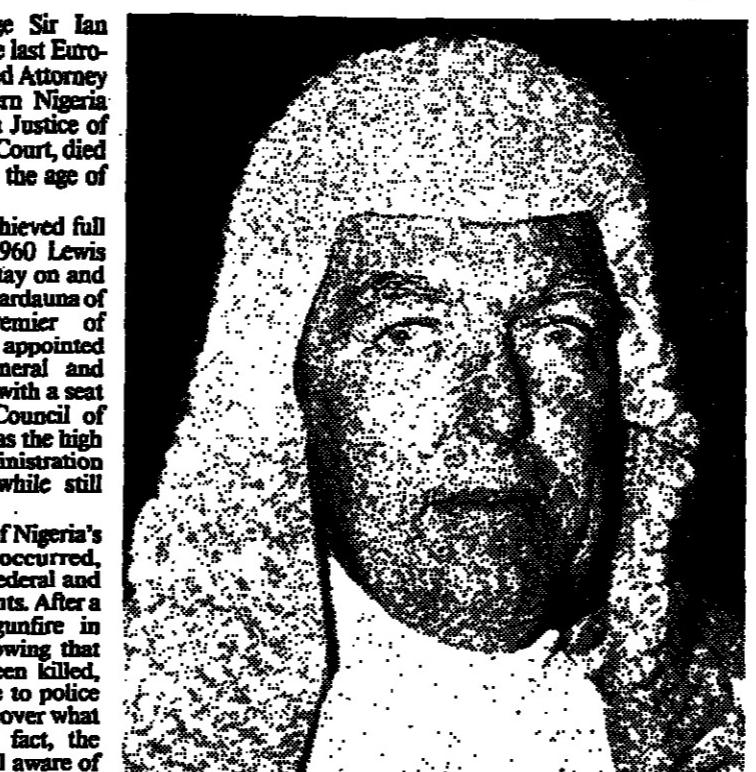
Mr David Wright, Mr Guy Salter, Mr Philip Mackie and Surgeon-Captain Antony Osborne, RN, were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, English National Ballet, this morning attended a rehearsal of the Company at Jay Mews, London, SW1.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**

February 23: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, was present this evening at a Reception at Stirling Castle, arranged by the Scottish Council to mark the conclusion of the 25th Anniversary Year of the Trust.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.



His Honour Judge Sir Ian Malcolm Lewis, the last European to be appointed Attorney General of Northern Nigeria and subsequently a Justice of Nigeria's Supreme Court, died on February 16, at the age of 64.

When Nigeria achieved full independence in 1960 Lewis was persuaded to stay on and two years later the Sardauna of Sokoto, then Premier of Northern Nigeria, appointed him Attorney General and Minister of Justice with a seat in the Executive Council of that region. Such was the high quality of his administration he was knighted while still only 38 in 1964.

In 1966 the first of Nigeria's military coups occurred, overthrowing the Federal and Regional governments. After a night of intense gunfire in Kaduna Lewis knew that the Premier had been killed, made his way alone to police headquarters to discover what was happening. In fact, the new rulers were well aware of his abilities and within weeks he was appointed to the Federal Supreme Court where he remained for six years.

He was born on December 14, 1925, the son of Professor Malcolm Lewis and grandson of a renowned Welsh preacher. He was educated at Clifton College, where he later became chairman of the council and remained a governor until his death. Gaining a scholarship to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, Lewis obtained a First in the Law Tripos and repeated that achievement in his LLB. Recently he was appointed Pro-Chancellor of Bristol University.

Throughout his life he excelled at swimming, daily undertaking a minimum of 20 lengths, and had been captain of Cambridge University

swimming and water polo teams and earned his Half Blue.

During the Second World War Lewis served being called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1951.

Returning from Nigeria to England in 1972, he resumed practice at the Bar but was made a Circuit Judge in 1973.

Almost immediately, however, Lewis was asked to undertake the work of a Commissioner and later a member of the Detention Appeal Tribunal in Northern Ireland. For three years this entailed his undertaking regular journeys to the Maze Prison being taken into the

High Court of Justice.

In all his activities he was fortunate to have the support and encouragement of his wife, Marjorie, whom he married in 1953. She survives him now, together with one son.

## DENIS ROBERTS

Sterling work in the development of Scotland's National Library

Denis Roberts, CBE, Librarian of the National Library of Scotland, died on February 14, aged 62, after a short illness.

Appointed Librarian of the National Library of Scotland in 1970, Roberts's period of almost 20 years at the helm was marked by many changes and development.

The major problem when he took over was lack of space. The building on George IV Bridge, designed in theory to accommodate the Library's entire intake until the end of this century, was already full. A decision was taken to acquire the disused Middlemills biscuit factory a mile to the south.

This, however, was looked upon only as a stop gap, and

period some notable acquisitions were made – the papers of Field Marshal Earl Haig, the Scott manuscripts from the Pforzheimer Library, the Scott "Magnum Opus", the Murthly Hours, and the library of the first Earl of Haddington.

The Library and Information Services Committee (Scotland) was also set up as a committee of the Library's Board of Trustees under Roberts's guidance.

Born on June 16, 1927, in Belfast, Roberts was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, and at Queen's University, Belfast.

From 1951 to 1955, he was an assistant lecturer in the Department of Modern History at Queen's. In 1955 he

was engaged as an Assistant Keeper in the Department of Manuscripts of the National Library of Scotland.

In 1967 his administrative abilities were recognized by his appointment to the post of Librarian of Trinity College, Dublin. Here he was involved with the move of part of the Library into new premises, an experience which later stood him in good stead.

Impressive in both manner and appearance, Denis Roberts was a man of exceptional intellectual abilities, and inspired friendship and loyalty in all who knew him.

He was appointed CBE in 1983, in recognition of his lifetime of dedication.

Roberts leaves a widow, one son and one daughter.

## Clifford Longley

## Relentless Durham Inquisition

There is an important principle in the criminal courts called *aurefuis acquit*, which means no one may be tried more than once for the same offence.

Had the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, spoken in his own defence at his trial-by-synod on Thursday, he could have pleaded thus, on the basis that the synod had been over this ground before.

He was found not guilty the first time, and the second. But there is an increasingly illiberal faction in the Church of England which refuses to take his acquittal for an answer. He is, and they are, to him, a relentless Inquisition.

Previous synod debates on the doctrines of the Virgin Birth and Resurrection had been theological, but the most recent one was largely tactical. The Bishop of Durham was not named, though he and everyone else knew he was the target. The object of the "prosecution" was to shame the general synod into approving a resolution which would by inference repudiate his views; with the additional offer of an amendment to reject him from the church and anyone else who agrees with him. The tactic of the "defence" was to persuade the synod that adherence to the ancient credal formulae was enough for orthodoxy, knowing that the Bishop of Durham was prepared to declare his adherence to the creeds and thus would escape the theological gallows.

That is the error it is how worked. The synod declined to commit itself to a literal interpretation of the virginal conception as the only possible one, or to commit itself likewise to a physical and bodily interpretation of the resurrection though it seemed bad members actually been polled on these points they would have given them a majority.

In Anglican terms, therefore, it is still legitimate to take the liberal view that these doctrines need not refer to historical events according to a literal reading of scripture, but may be true in some other sense.

It was also apparent, however, that a majority did not seem to understand what "being true in some other sense" might mean: they merely gave the concept the benefit of the doubt, at least partly because they did not like the intolerant tone of those who were urging them to go much further.

The synod was in fact being intensely traditional in its reliance. There is a principle going back almost to the foundation of Christianity of defining what must be believed as narrowly as possible, and therefore leaving as much as possible outside the scope of formal definitions.

Anglicanism has not had much occasion to practise it, for before the creation of the General Synod in 1970 there was no real mechanism for handling doctrinal disputes outside the courts and Parliament.

The principle, still observed in the Roman Catholic Church on those rare occasions when it defines a doctrine, is to make a declaration of what is deemed to be orthodox, and then attach an anathema to anyone who declares the opposite. This is subtly different from making a declaration of what is orthodox, and then demanding that everyone must believe it, which is what the synod was being asked to do.

It takes care, above all, of those who do not understand the doctrine in question, and therefore cannot say whether they believe it or not. They may not understand it because they are too simple or ignorant; or they may not understand it because they are intelligent enough to know that all religious doctrines refer to mysteries

beyond human comprehension. It is significant that the Bishop of Durham, who as a theologian will be well aware of this traditional negative way of approaching doctrinal definition, has been careful never to deny an actual physical resurrection or a literal virginal conception. In accordance with the tradition, therefore, he should avoid the anathema, for it only falls on those who contradict, not on those who merely ask questions.

The use of this negative anathema method of defining doctrine has the virtue that it does not stifle further exploration. It has always been accepted as legitimate to ask what a doctrine meant, and to suggest it did not mean what everyone thought it meant. Doctrines – once defined, properly called dogmas – contain religious truths; but the meaning is not always obvious on the surface and has to be extracted before it can be comprehended. This is one of the meanings of the notion of theological reception.

It is a very good question whether a doctrine may also contain a related historical or scientific truth as an adjunct to the religious truth and carrying the same weight, or whether such non-religious truths, even if apparently implied by the doctrine, have to stand on their own feet on the historical or scientific evidence. The doctrine that God created the world, for instance, says nothing about how or when; religion can throw no light on such scientific matters.

The area of greatest difficulty concerns the doctrines which surround Jesus Christ, who existed in history. There is at least one doctrine, therefore – the doctrine that Christ existed at all, it has been by imposing an anathema on those who say to the contrary. They too have a case, and in any event they are more numerous and by no means less faithful.

The eye of strong faith may regard the independent religious realm as the paramount one, and sees the detachment of religious truth from scientific or historical "fact" as the separation of what is primary and sure from what is secondary and unproved. That is the Bishop of Durham's (highly dogmatic) position – and if he has erred at all, it has been by imposing an anathema on those who say to the contrary. They too have a case, and in any event they are more numerous and by no means less faithful.

## Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle, to be Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr John Patten, Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Mr J.Q. Greenstock to be Assistant Under-Secretary of State and Deputy Political Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, supervising southern and western Europe.

Mr Alan Duncan, from March 3, to succeed Mr Greenstock, who will also be the UK's representative representative on the Council of Western European Union, succeeds Mr D. E. Rafford.

Mr Mark Sargeant to be vice-president of the British Printing Industries Federation, succeeding to the presidency in June.

Dr Allan Duncan to be Deputy Chief Inspector, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, and the promotion to Director of Dr Frank Feates.

This approach justifies the Bishop of Durham in saying that he believes in the doctrines of the Incarnation and Resurrection, while reserving his position on "what actually happened." It implies that religion is capable of being an independent realm of meaning and truth, with no need for any grounding on scientific or historical facts (reliance on which could in fact weaken rather than strengthen it).

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The Head Master of Westminster School held a reception on Thursday evening in Ashburnham House, off the Henry Tudor Memorial Lecture given by Dr Richard Dawkins, Fellow of New College, Oxford.

The chairman was Professor John Maynard Smith, FRS, and among the guests were representatives from 20 schools and other educational and scientific establishments.

Many thanks to the Prime Minister for his speech, and the whole lot of new members of staff and students for their welcome.

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## MARGARET CRASKE

Disciple of the Cecchetti method of dancing

Margaret Craske, one of the leading ballet teachers of her time, died in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on February 18, aged 97.

She was a leading exponent of the teaching methods devised by the great Enrico Cecchetti, and besides her work with her own pupils, she played a key part in recording his system for the benefit of future generations.

She was born in Norfolk on November 26, 1892. Her early teachers were mostly names little-known today, and her own dancing career



## SATURDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

# The peak of human endurance

Peter Waymark

The one predictable hazard facing climbers trying to make the summit of K2, the world's second highest mountain and the most difficult to scale, is the unpredictability of the weather. Every expedition since an American medical student, Charlie Houston, led the first in 1938 has run into storms, blizzards and avalanches. The death toll has been horrifying. And yet the lure of K2, which straddles the Pakistan-Chinese border, consistently overrides consideration of the modest chances of survival. It is an addiction which too often proves fatal, but if it was easy no one would bother.



Julie Tullis' attempt to become one of the first Britons to conquer K2 (C4, 8.00pm)

**Allen Jewhurst's K2 — Triumph and Tragedy** (Channel 4, 8.00pm) is a film in two parts. The first is a short history of the various attempts to reach the summit from Houston to a successful Japanese expedition up the western ridge in 1983. The second is a more detailed account of the events of 1986, when no fewer than nine expeditions were climbing at the same time. The outcome was the worst disaster in the history of mountaineering, as 13 climbers perished in yet another savage storm. They included Alan Rouse and Julie Tullis, who were trying to become the first Britons to conquer K2. Chris Bonington, who tried and failed with the first British expedition in 1978, annotates the historical section, while the 1986 tragedy is recalled by Jim Curran, who was on the mountain as a climbing cameraman. His hour-by-hour diary, recording the growing tension at the base camp as he and his companions braced themselves for the worst, is a bleak and moving document.

Watching opera on television is a bit like watching a rugby international — what you lose in atmosphere and sense of scale you gain in the camera's ability to home in on significant detail. Whether this is a worthwhile balance of advantage with a work of such epic sweep as Borodin's Prince Igor (BBC2, 8.50pm) may be questionable. But for those unable to get to Covent Garden, or afford its prices, television must be the next best thing. Andrei Serban's enthusiastically received production is conducted by Bernard Haitink. It features Seige Leiferkus as a commanding Igor, and among the more than 200 other performers are members of the Royal Ballet whose well-publicized industrial dispute at one time seemed to throw the whole enterprise into doubt.

## BBC1

- 6.40 Open University: Pure Maths — Ideas of Space 7.05 Maths: caring for Data
- 7.30 Saturday Starts Here! with Wayne Jackman and Wayne Tregonning, beginning with Playdays (r) 7.55 Laurel and Hardy in a cartoon *Shiver My Timbers* (r) 8.00 Mersey Tales. Roger McGuinness tells his own story *The Stowaway* 8.05 News Adventures of Mighty Mouse 8.20 ChuckleVision. Barry and Paul Chuckle investigate pedal power 8.35 *Thunderbirds in Gadget Tales Up the Challenge* (r)
- 9.00 Going Live. Liza Minnelli, who starred in the musical *Cabaret* and has just had a marriage with the Pet Shop Boys, is today a Special Guest on *Music*. Music comes from Belinda Carlisle and this month's Book of the Month's feature includes an interview with Paul Zindel. Others popping in to the studio are the *Really Wild Show*'s Terry Nutkins, Chris Packham and Nick Davies 12.12 Weather
- 12.15 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The programme is subject to amendment 12.20 Football in Northern Ireland: the World Cup final in Lethbridge between The Netherlands and Pakistan; 1.00 News 1.05, 1.45, 2.15 and 4.00 Bowls action from the Embassy World Indoor championship in Preston; 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 Racing from Pimlico; 2.30-3.00 Formula 1.00 News highlights of the first half of a Silk Cut Challenge Cup third round match followed by live coverage of the second half; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.35 Cricket: highlights of the morning's play in the first Test between West Indies and England in Jamaica. 4.40 Final Score
- 5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Saturday News 5.30 Sport 5.30 The Flying Doctors. The height of the Coopers Crossing Centenary celebrations is Sam's and Emma's wedding. Meanwhile, Chris must also go back in history to treat a nine-year-old girl suffering from diphtheria, using 19th-century techniques. (Ceefax)
- 6.05 *Jim'll Fix It*. Among those for whom Jimmy Savile fixes it is a Sunbather who goes on a photographic safari in Kenya; and two girls from Somerset who meet their pop idols Big Fun (Ceefax)
- 6.40 Little and Large. Syd and Eddie are joined by guests Bonnie Langford and Living in a Box. (Ceefax)
- 7.15 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. Special guests include magician Rudy Coby from New York and the Paul Daniels British Freestyle BMX team. (Ceefax)
- 8.00 Wednesday Best. In the final episode of Phil Redmond's police drama series, WPC Foster volunteers to act as a decoy to catch the shop murderer, Ronnie, meanwhile, nervous prepares for his first court appearance. (Ceefax)
- 8.50 News with Michael Buerk. Sport and weather
- 9.10 *Midnight Caller: Do You Believe in Miracles?* This week a young girl sees a statue of Jesus cry tears but her policeman turned late-night radio show host is not convinced of the authenticity of the miracle. (Ceefax)
- 10.00 Roy Brattin. A repeat of last year's special anniversary show in which the comedy impressionist's guests were John Bird, Steve Nallon, Erri Reitel and the music, Steve Brown (r)
- 10.30 Film: National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) starring Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo as typical middle-class American parents taking their children on a summer holiday, driving from Chicago to Disney Land. Chevy Chase is at the helm of all manner of accidents and other misadventures, such as falling asleep at the wheel and navigating himself into dangerous neighbourhoods. Directed by Harold Ramis. (Ceefax)
- 12.05 Men Cricket: First Test. Highlights of the first day's play between West Indies and England in Jamaica
- 12.35 Film: Count Yorga, Vampire (1970) starring Robert Quarry and Michael Murphy. Horror film about teenage couples being terrorised by a blood-thirsty block-breaker at his remote mansion in Los Angeles. Directed by Bob Kellian
- 2.05 Weather

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 TV-am begins with News read by Susie Grant followed by It's Stardust. Alvin Stardust presents songs, stories and poems about the environment (r) 7.00 WAC 90 with Tommy Boyd and Michaela Strachan
- 8.35 Motormouth 2. Andrea Arnold presents her first film report from China; the winners of the Bros competition meet their heroes, Luke and Matt, and there's an interview with Gloria Estefan. Plus a roadshow report from Leeds and cartoon Scooby-Doo
- 11.30 TV-am's Cart Show. The Vintage Video features David Bowie
- 12.30 The Monsters Today: Say Ah. Herman is looking forward to driving the hearse in a car race, until a trip to the doctor's with Eddie lands him in hospital where the doctor plans to operate
- 1.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 1.05 LWT News
- 1.10 Saint and Grisselle. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves preview this weekend's football fixtures. The second leg semi-final matches as well as the games in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup
- 1.40 Sportsmasters. Dickie Davies asks the question as three more contestants display their knowledge of sport.
- 2.10 Coronation Street (r)
- 3.05 Snooker. Tom Ford introduces the 1989 Pearl Assurance British Open from the Assembly Rooms, Derby. The commentary team is John Putman, Rex Williams, Mark Wildman and Jim Meadowcroft
- 4.45 Results Service with Eithon Welby 5.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 5.05 LWT News
- 5.15 Saturday. Mark Walker hosts another round of the computerised game show.
- 5.45 Baywatch: Roolie School. Eddie befriends a young woman who is on the run from her murderous boyfriend, while Trevor attends classes in order to become a qualified lifeguard
- 6.40 Haggard: The Great Lover. Haggard makes plans for his son, Patrick, to adopt his nanny when he learns that Fanta's father intends her to marry another. With Keith Barron and Rocco Diodati. (Oracle)
- 7.10 You Bet! More unusual wagers introduced by Bruce Forsyth. The celebrities ready to perform forfeits tonight if they lose their bets are Anneke Croft, Keith Chegwin and Lawrie McMenemy
- 8.10 Murder, She Wrote: Deadspin. A critic who raved about a play loosely based on one of his novels is killed and the author who penned it is the chief suspect. Starring Angela Lansbury and Dean Stockwell
- 9.10 Yellowstreet: Rummy's Cut. Informant Rummy Doyle's ambitious plans to oustment the Hong Kong police humiliates Kelly, but when she goes in search of him, all she discovers is Rummy's corpse. With Catherine Nelson, Ray Lonneman and David Kelly. (Oracle)
- 10.10 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 10.25 LWT News
- 10.30 *One & a Community*: Michael Aspel's guests are three American stars — William Shatner, Liza Minnelli and Cybill Shepherd
- 11.15 Snooker. Tony Francis presents further coverage of the British Open from the Assembly Rooms in Derby
- 12.30 Saturday Night at the Movies. Tony Slattery talks to David Lynch, director of cult films such as *Eraserhead* and *Blue Velvet*, and visits the set of his latest film, *Wild at Heart*, which stars Nicholas Cage and Laura Elena. Plus reviews of *Blast!, Monkey Shines* and *Crimes of Passion*. He looks at the highly successful career of John Candy, currently starring in *Uncle Buck*. Followed by ITN News headlines
- 1.00 *Damn Sheer Madness*. Host Tuppert stars as German detective Chief Inspector Derrick. Followed by ITN News headlines
- 2.10 American College Football. Tennessee v Louisiana State University
- 4.10 *The Hit Men and Her*. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan check out the latest sounds and fashions in one country's discos. Followed by News headlines
- 3.00 ITN Monday News with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

## BBC2

- 6.30 Open University
- 7.45 Shirkant. Episode eight of Sarat Chandra Chatterjee's semi-autobiographical novel. Shirkant goes out into the world to beg for alms and to do good deeds. In Hindi with English subtitles (r)
- 8.35 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore visits the large New Technology Telescope at La Silla in Chile's Atacama Desert, the most accurate and modern telescope in the world (r)
- 9.45 Ingrid in Italy. The story of Ingrid Bergman's controversial affair and marriage to the Italian film director, Roberto Rossellini, which began when he met her in Sicily in 1946. With home movies, newsreels and contributions from friends and acquaintances
- 10.10 Film: Stromboli (1949, b/w) starring Ingrid Bergman as a post-war Lithuanian refugee who marries a young Italian to escape from a despised persons camp. She moves to his native island of Stromboli but becomes disenchanted with the arduous lifestyle and the barren surroundings. With Mario Vitale. (Oracle)
- 8.55 International Bowls. David Icke introduces action from the World Indoor Championships in Preston Guild Hall featuring singles and pairs matches
- 9.20 Rhymes of the World: Grove Zeile. Leading composer, Ray Lema, explores the history of music in Zeile, with contributions from Tabu Ley Rochereau and Kanda Bongo Man
- 7.15 NewsView with Moira Stuart and Lynette Lithgow. Weather
- 8.00 *Juliette*: Fertile Ground. Julian Pettifer continues his series on the lives of missionaries. Today he looks at Africa and meets, among others, a Yorkshire priest teaching table manners in Uganda and an evangelist doctor fighting AIDS, not drugs but with the Bible
- 8.25 Prince Iggy (see Choice)
- 12.35 Film: The Clan. Gilbert Adair introduces Roberto Rossellini's Voyage to Stromboli (1953, b/w) starring Ingrid Bergman and George Sanders. An English couple visit Italy, their first trip together for 10 years. The journey seems to sum up for both of them exactly why they haven't travelled with each other recently. Naples however, brings an unexpected reconsideration of their fragile marital state
- 1.30 International Bowls. Highlights from today's play in the Embassy World Indoor Championship at Preston Guild Hall, introduced by David Icke. Ends at 2.25

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 *Durrell in Russia* (r) 6.30 Just 4 Fun 7.00 Once upon a Time 7.30 International Times — World News 8.00 Transworld Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line 9.25 Sing and Swing with the stars of the 1930s and 1940s 9.30 Same Difference (r)
- 10.00 Travelog (r)
- 10.30 Film: On Borrowed Time (1939, b/w) starring Lionel Barrymore and Cedric Hardwick. Fantasy comedy about the grandfather of an orphan boy who comes face to face with "Death" who refuses to die until he guarantees the safe future of his grandson. Directed by Harold S. Bucquet
- 12.30 Wales. Animated short 12.30-1.00 Film: A Wizard of Oz
- 1.00 Film: *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946, b/w) starring James Stewart and Claudette Colbert. Comedy thriller about a private detective who steals a woman's car to track down the murderer of the crime for which he has been framed, and finds her helping him in his search. Directed by W. S. Van Dyke (r)
- 2.35 *Coriolanus*. The story of a battle of wills between a man and a horse (r)
- 2.50 *Carry On, Jeeves!* From Kenney Park. Live coverage of the 3.05, 4.10 and 4.40 races
- 5.05 Brookside: *Ozambule* (r). (Oracle)
- 6.00 Right To Reply examines the portrayal of racism minorities on television
- 6.30 Scottish Eye investigates prescription drug addiction in Scotland
- 7.00 *World This Week*
- 7.15 Europe Express includes a look at why Belgium has become one of the worst polluters of the North Sea. Followed by Weather
- 8.00 Adventures: K2 — Triumph and Tragedy. (see Choice)
- 9.00 *Thirdything*: Love and Sex. Award-winning US comedy/drama series (Oracle)
- 10.00 *Brave Warriors*. This final dramatised episode from the history of Anglo-Scots relations, covers events from the 18th-century riots against the Act of Union to football hooliganism in the 1980s
- 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Rapists. A discussion on the mind of rapists
- 11.30 Film: Phase IV (1973) starring Nigel Davenport. Prize-winning science-fiction film about a scientist battling with alien life-forms in the Arizona desert. Directed by Saul Bass
- 1.25 Film: *Them!* (1954, b/w) starring Edmund Gwenn. The New Mexico desert is the battleground for the conflict between scientists and marauding mutant ants. Directed by Gordon Douglas. Ends at 3.05

## SATELLITE

- 6.00am Barrier Reef 6.30 The Flying Kiwi 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 The Bionic Woman 12.00 The Black Sheep Squadron 2.00pm All-American Wrestling 3.00 Cricket: West Indies v England — first day of the First Test, from Jamaica 11.00 Sky World News Tonight 11.30 A Soul Session: James Brown and Friends
- SKY ONE
- 5.00am Sky News 5.30 Beyond 2000 6.30 The Unesco Report — The Sand of Centuries 7.30 Frank Bough This Week 8.30 Beyond 2000 8.30 The Reporters 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.30 The Unesco Report 12.30pm Fashion TV 1.30 The Reporters 2.30 Motor Sports News 3.30 Our World — A View of Britain: Covent Garden 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.30 Entertainment This Week 6.30 Fashion TV 7.30 The Reporters 8.30 Our World 9.30 Entertainment This Week 10.30 Motor Sports News 2.30 Entertainment This Week 11.30 The Reporters 4.30 Beyond 2000
- SKY NEWS
- 5.00am Sky News 5.30 Beyond 2000 6.30 The Unesco Report — The Sand of Centuries 7.30 Frank Bough This Week 8.30 Beyond 2000 8.30 The Reporters 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.30 The Unesco Report 12.30pm Fashion TV 1.30 The Reporters 2.30 Motor Sports News 3.30 Our World 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.30 Entertainment This Week 6.30 Fashion TV 7.30 The Reporters 8.30 Our World 9.30 Entertainment This Week 10.30 Motor Sports News 2.30 Entertainment This Week 11.30 The Reporters 4.30 Beyond 2000
- SKY MOVIES
- From 8.00pm The Shopping Channel 2.00pm *The Wizard of Speed and Time* (1983; Director Mike Jitrov, playing himself, touts his skills as a special effects artist in Hollywood)
- 4.00 Top Cat and the Beverly Hills Cats: Animated feature
- 6.00 Little Shop of Horrors (1980; Rick Moranis in a camp comedy about a man-eating plant) With Ellen Greene, Vincent Gardenia and cameo appearances by Steve Martin, James Belushi, Bill Murray and John Candy
- 7.40 Entertainment Tonight
- 8.00 *Med in Heaven* (1987; Timothy Hutton and Kelly McGillis as two lost souls in Heaven who fall in love and are reincarnated on Earth)
- 9.40 *Top Gun* (1986; The top cinema films of 1986) *Soul Man* (1986; A white teenager pretends to be black in order to win a scholarship for Harvard)
- 11.45 *9½ Weeks* (1985; A tale of dangerous obsession. Starring Mickey Rourke and Kim Basinger)
- 1.45am *Action Jackson* (1988; Carl Weathers as a disgraced cop who goes on the trail of the crook who set him up. With Craig T. Nelson)
- 4.00 *Highlander* (1986; The Immortals battle through the ages for ultimate supremacy. With Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery. Ends at 5.30am)
- EUROSPORT
- 6.00am Barrier Reef 6.30 The Flying Kiwi 7.00 Fun Factory 9.00 Menu 9.30 Mobil 1 Motor Sport News 10.00 Ford Skid Report 11.00 Trans World Sport 12.00 Stuttgart Classic Tennis 2.00pm Tennis: Indoor Classic 5.50 Wheels 6.00 Super Magazine 6.30 Train 7.00 Indoor Athletics 6.00 Boxing: Saturday Night Fights 10.00 Tennis: Indoor Classic
- MITV
- 6.30am Non-Stop Pure Pop, Inc. Remote Control 8.30 US Top 20 11.00 Yolanda 11.30 Rock in Rock 12.00 Ray Charles; Club MTV 4.30pm XPO 8.00 The Big Picture 5.30 Kristiane Becker 8.00 Party Zone 10.30 Club MTV 11.00 Erotika 12.00 Malien Wexo 2.00am Night Videos
- SCREENSPORT
- 1.30am US Basketball 3.00 Sport in France 3.30 Rugby League 5.00 Argentinian Football 6.45 Top Team Spanish Soccer 7.00 1990 Martini Fencing Championships 8.00 US PGA Golf
- 10.00 Ice Hockey 12.00 1989 Argentinian Football 1.30 Pro Bikers 3.00 US Basketball 4.30 French Rugby League 6.00 Update: US Pro Stock 7.30 Powersports International 7.30 Ice Hockey 8.30 US College Basketball 11.00 US Professional Boxing
- LIFESTYLE
- 12.00 Space Patrol 12.30pm Car 54, Where Are You? 1.00 Smothers Brothers 1.30 Make Room for Daddy 2.00 *Family Matters* 2.30 *Family Matters* 3.00 *Home Improvement* 4.00 *Family Matters* 4.30 *Family Matters* 5.00 *Family Matters* 5.30 *Family Matters* 6.00 *Family Matters* 6.30 *Family Matters* 7.00 *Family Matters* 7.30 *Family Matters* 8.00 *Family Matters* 8.30 *Family Matters* 9.00 *Family Matters* 9.30 *Family Matters* 10.00 *Family Matters* 10.30 *Family Matters* 11.00 *Family Matters* 11.30 *Family Matters* 12.00 *Family Matters* 12.30 *Family Matters* 1.00 *Family Matters* 1.30 *Family Matters* 2.00 *Family Matters* 2.30 *Family Matters* 3.00 *Family Matters* 3.30 *Family Matters* 4.00 *Family Matters* 4.30 *Family Matters* 5.00 *Family Matters* 5.30 *Family Matters* 6.00 *Family Matters* 6.30 *Family Matters* 7.00 *Family Matters* 7.30 *Family Matters* 8.00 *Family Matters* 8.30 *Family Matters* 9.00 *Family Matters* 9.30 *Family Matters* 10.00 *Family Matters* 10.30 *Family Matters* 11.00 *Family Matters* 11.30 *Family Matters* 12.00 *Family Matters* 12.30 *Family Matters* 1.00 *Family Matters* 1.30 *Family Matters* 2.00 *Family Matters* 2.30 *Family Matters* 3.00 *Family Matters* 3.30 *Family Matters* 4.00 *Family Matters* 4.30 *Family Matters* 5.00 *Family Matters* 5.30 *Family Matters* 6.00 *Family Matters* 6.30 *Family Matters* 7.00 *Family Matters* 7.30 *Family Matters* 8.00 *Family Matters* 8.30 *Family Matters* 9.00 *Family Matters* 9.30 *Family Matters* 10.00 *Family Matters* 10.30 *Family Matters* 11.00 *Family Matters* 11.30 *Family Matters* 12.00 *Family Matters* 12.30 *Family Matters* 1.00 *Family Matters* 1.30 *Family Matters* 2.00 *Family Matters* 2.30 *Family Matters* 3.00 *Family Matters* 3.30 *Family Matters* 4.00 *Family Matters* 4.30 *Family Matters* 5.00 *Family Matters* 5.30 *Family Matters* 6.00 *Family Matters* 6.30 *Family Matters* 7.00 *Family Matters* 7.30 *Family Matters* 8.00 *Family Matters* 8.30 *Family Matters* 9.00 *Family Matters* 9.30 *Family Matters* 10.00 *Family Matters* 10.30 *Family Matters* 11.00 *Family Matters* 11.30 *Family Matters* 12.00 *Family Matters* 12.30 *Family Matters* 1.00 *Family Matters* 1.30 *Family Matters* 2.00 *Family Matters* 2.30 *Family Matters* 3.00 *Family Matters* 3.30 *Family Matters* 4.00 *Family Matters* 4.30 *Family Matters* 5.00 *Family Matters* 5.30 *Family Matters* 6.00 *Family Matters* 6.30 *Family Matters* 7.00 *Family Matters* 7.30 *Family Matters* 8.00 *Family Matters* 8.30 *Family Matters* 9.00 *Family Matters* 9.30 *Family Matters* 10.00 *Family Matters* 10.30 *Family Matters* 11.00 *Family Matters* 11.30 *Family Matters* 12.00 *Family*



# Nationwide protests face Kremlin

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet authorities are bracing themselves for nationwide demonstrations tomorrow that could turn into mass protests against the communist regime and threaten public order.

The demonstrations, planned three weeks ago to support faster political and economic reform, come at a time of heightened political tension in almost every republic of the Soviet Union, from the Baltic states through the Russian federation and the Ukraine to central Asia.

In Moscow, Leningrad, the Ukrainian capital Kiev and in many other places, there is a feeling that the country is approaching its hour of crisis. Rumours about violence and counter-violence are rife.

The Communist Party central committee's alarmist appeal to the nation, calling for discipline and unity at "this difficult juncture in history" — which was issued on Thursday night — was published on the front page of all national and local newspapers yesterday. A deputy head of the KGB — echoing an earlier warning by the Moscow police — cautioned that "extremists and even criminal elements"

could attach themselves to the planned marches and cause trouble.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Alma-Ata that the Kazakh Interior Minister who presided over the use of troops to break up a demonstration in December 1986 has been removed amid calls for a reassessment of the first mass disorders of the Gorbachev era.

Official Kazakh newspapers reported yesterday that Mr Grigori Krayazev had been

High flyer ..... 3  
Conor Cruise O'Brien 10

relieved of his post "in connection with his transfer to other duties".

Public fears that demonstrations tomorrow could turn violent were expressed yesterday in numerous readers' letters published in the Soviet press calling for the imposition of order.

The combination of official warnings and public repetition make it unlikely that tomorrow's demonstrations will pass off as peacefully as the first pro-reform march by about 300,000 people in Moscow three weeks ago.

## De Klerk praised as sanctions lifted

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Two Cabinet Ministers yesterday praised President de Klerk's "transformation of the political climate" in South Africa as they announced the lifting of sanctions on new investment and the promotion of tourism.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Mr Michael Howard, the Employment Secretary, used matching terms in Commons written answers to justify lifting the sanctions.

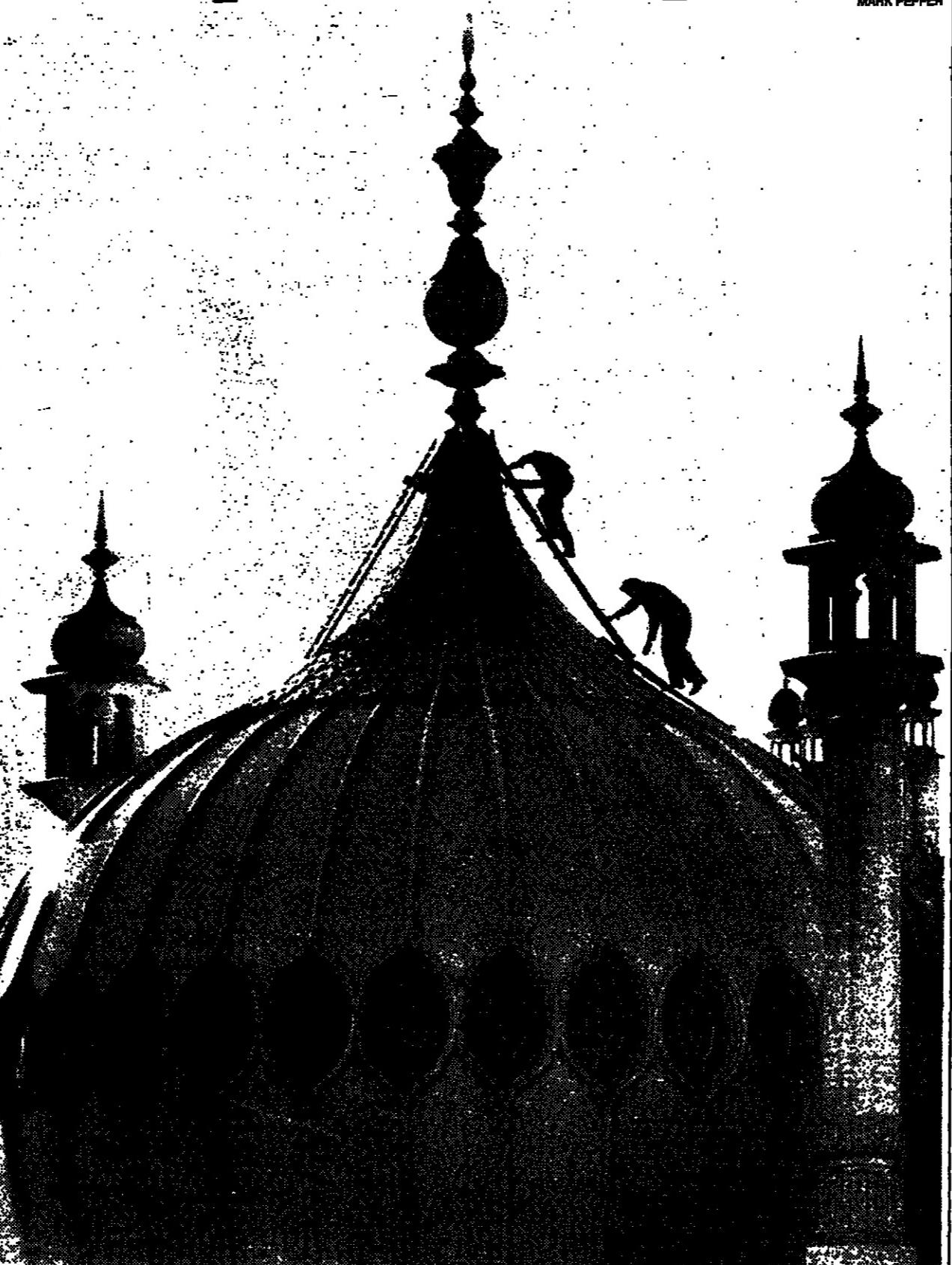
They both insisted that the steps taken by the South African President towards a peaceful, negotiated end to apartheid deserved "a constructive response from the

Aphelele Movement in Cardiff. "The purpose of sanctions is not and never has been punishment. It has always been positive and geared entirely to imposing pressure as an effective, non-violent means of squeezing apartheid out of existence."

Both's warriors, page 7

# New splendour for pavilion

MARK PEPPER



Workers were putting the finishing touches to the salon dome at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, this week as part of the £9.3 million restoration programme begun in 1981 and due to finish next year (Glen Young writes).

The building was found to be in need of major structural repairs after a fire in 1975 destroyed the interior of the music

room. It was found that the Prince Regent's architect, John Nash, had not achieved a perfect fit when putting the ornate flourishes over what had originally been a farmhouse and later Holland's Marine Pavilion.

Rain had regularly been trapped between the older parts of the building and Nash's cast-iron framework, even-

tually corroding the metal and splitting the stonework.

The restoration work has now reached its third and final phase, and though in the 1987 one of the two-ton minarets fell through the newly restored music room's ceiling and destroyed its newly laid carpet, this year's storms succeeded only in removing a few tiles.

# Prince calls for age of reverence in architecture

From Charles Knecht, Washington

The Prince of Wales told 1,200 architects here that property developers treated London as "merely a financial staging post between New York and Tokyo" instead of acting in the spirit of patronage which had previously offered "the rarest and most magnificent example of the architect's gratitude for a city that one could be proud of".

If developers were the "Medici of the 20th century", as they had been described to him, "where then is our Florence?", he asked.

The cream of American architects had paid \$250 each to hear the Prince speak at a gala dinner in the National Building Museum, on Thursday night.

In his most important speech on design for more than two years, the Prince called for "an age of reverence", but steered clear of specific criticisms of American architecture.

Instead, developing the theme of turning back to nature and away from a soulless, materialistic and technological approach.

He praised the work of American architects in London in the past who had designed Selfridges in Oxford Street; Bush House in the

Strand, and the sculpture gallery at the Tate Gallery.

Much modern architecture had become the "epitome of the throw-away society" instead of being durable and informed by the past, he said, adding: "I understand all the arguments about being contemporary, and about the need to reflect the spirit of the age, but what alarms me is that the age has no spirit."

Many commercial buildings had as much to do with architecture as advertising slogans had to do with literature, he added.

The way costs and profits were calculated needed to be rethought to take into account the hidden costs of pollution, energy waste and the human and natural consequences of the actions of developers. A long-term and holistic view was needed, which was also economic good sense and better business.

Referring to redevelopment

plans for Paternoster Square,

north of St Paul's Cathedral,

he said: "St Paul's dome is not just a bowler hat perched on top of a business-suited City"

and called for the developers, Greycoat Estates, of London, and Park Tower Realty, of

New York, to provide a design code for the scheme.

## Sacks to be Britain's Chief Rabbi at 42

By Clifford Langley, Religious Affairs Editor

Dr Jonathan Sacks, principal of Jews' College, London, and rabbi of the Marble Arch orthodox synagogue, is expected to be named next week as Lord Jakobovits's successor as orthodox Chief Rabbi of Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

Dr Sacks, who will be 42 next month, will not take over until next year, when Lord Jakobovits turns 70. Dr Isaac Bernstein of Finchley Synagogue, a leading member of the orthodox Jewish community in Britain, told *The Times*: "I consider him one of the brightest stars to emerge in the Anglo-Jewish firmament for many a year. I only hope the Almighty will give him

strength and courage to fulfil the very very great tasks that lie ahead of him in the next decades."

The committee of six han-

dling the appointment is to

have its final meeting tomorrow, but Dr Sacks is now the only candidate. Its recom-

mendation will have to be

ratiified first by a 31-strong

selection committee and then

by the Chief Rabbinate Con-

ference of more than 200

members, who represent all

the orthodox synagogues

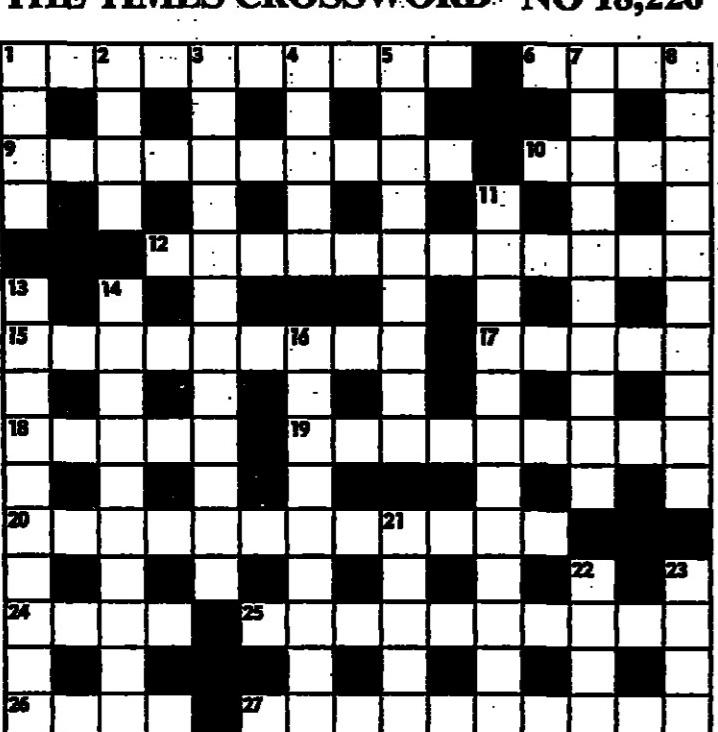
under the Chief Rabbi's jurisdiction.

The only other candidate —

Rabbi Cyril Harris of South

Africa — has withdrawn from contention.

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,226



#### ACROSS

- In the main, flat-bottomed boat it built round sides of yawl (7,3).
- Executioner cut off King's head — cut with a sharp instrument (4).
- What Midas had — about the colour of youth for ages (7,5).
- Girl takes part in change (5).
- Approached by those with 9 letters in the gallery (9).
- Lit a cranny that could be oppressive (10).
- Form of interphase in which men play no part (3,7).
- Story about a first fruit being digested (12).
- Pearl on ice cream, say — a very small portion (4,6).
- Cleaner taking sleep'n' regular exercise (5,5).
- Nasty attack (9).
- Record topped by female animal (3).
- Hearing you can upset one (4).
- State is laminated, to some extent (4).

Concise crossword, page 48

Solution to Puzzle No 18,220

**PROFIT CASHMERE**  
A ALA C O I A  
PLAYGROUND LUCE  
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TYPECAST DINGHY  
TWIG ROUNDERS  
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DARTMOOR CREW  
A S O F T  
MISFIT PROGRESS  
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BODY LASTMINUTE  
M E R A A E T  
GETRAYAL LESSON  
**SHEAFFER**

A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virgina Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....

#### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- Slow to develop
- Syntactic, communal
- Tastiness

#### STERICORATION

- Spreading dung
- Snoring stereotypically
- Sacrificing a ball

#### SIEVERT

- The Arctic polecat
- A unit of radiation
- A Polish fur hat with flaps

#### FLAVID

- Yellowish
- Very angry
- Newly washed

Answers on page 14

#### TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Green London ..... 701  
London ..... 702  
Dover/Hants & IOW ..... 703  
Devon & Cornwall ..... 704  
Wtts/Gloucs, Avon/Som ..... 705  
Bucks/Bucks, Oxon ..... 706  
Bedz/Herts & Essex ..... 707  
Norfolk & Suffolk ..... 708  
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent ..... 709  
Shrops/Herfs & Wrcs ..... 710  
Central Midlands ..... 711  
East Midlands ..... 712  
Lincs & Humberside ..... 713  
Dyfed & Gwynedd ..... 714  
N W England ..... 716  
W & S Yorks & Dales ..... 717  
N E England ..... 718  
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Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

**THE POUND**

US dollar 1.7065 (-0.0090)  
W German mark 2.8635 (+0.0003)  
Exchange index 90.2 (-0.1)

**STOCK MARKET**

FT 30 Share 1762.3 (-27.5)  
FT-SE 100 2236.7 (-32.5)  
USM (Datstream) 150.89 (-1.17)

Market report, page 20

## Shares fall after drop in Tokyo

Shares in London fell heavily yesterday following the 930-point overnight drop in Tokyo. At one point, the FT-SE 100 index was down by more than 40 points with most leading shares showing heavy declines.

But helped by a firmer-than-expected opening on Wall Street, dealers recovered some of their nerve. By the close at 3.00 pm, the FT-SE was only 32.5 lower at 1,236.7, with the FT 30 index 26.2 down at 1,763.6. End-of-account trading helped to lift volume to 467.7 million shares.

However, dealers are not convinced that the worst is over and attention is once again focusing on what Tokyo will do next week. The fear is that while London and New York have twice partly defied Tokyo's downward pull, they may not be able to do so again.

Market report, page 20

**STOCK MARKETS**

New York: Dow Jones 2562.84 (-11.93)\*  
Tokyo: Nikkei Average 34890.97 (-935.07)  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2894.31 (-33.61)  
Amsterdam: EBS Tercency 105.6 (-1.8)  
Stock ADX 1592.1 (-30.7)  
Frankfurt: DAX 1783.84 (-30.51)  
Brussels: General 5656.33 (-2.68)  
Paris CAC 404.84 (+0.76)  
Zurich: SKA Gen 601.2 (-9.1)  
London: FT-A Share n/a  
FT-SE 100\* n/a  
FT: Gold Mines 255.6 (-7.7)  
FT: Fixed interest 89.20 (-1.45)  
FT: Govt Secs 80.15 (+0.24)

Recent issues Page 18  
4pm prices Page 21

**MAIN PRICE CHANGES**

Rises:  
Priest Marians 505p (+12%)  
W Runciman 5175p (+46%)

Falls:  
Color Group 320p (-20%)  
Glen 155p (-15%)  
New Corp 445p (-14%)  
Guinness 6375p (-14%)  
Carlton Comm 735p (-13%)  
Thomson Corp 735p (-10%)  
RHM 585p (-14%)  
Body Shop 520p (-30%)  
Unilever 320p (-40%)  
Starch & Soda 1385p (-20%)  
Dove 1250p (-15%)  
Candover 2025p (-15%)  
Barclay 7425p (-25%)  
Microfilm Repro 220p (-15%)  
Strong & Fisher 551p (-12%)  
Hawker Siddeley 6031p (-16%)  
Presto 4225p (-20%)  
Brit Aerospace 4875p (-14%)  
4pm prices 2883p  
SEAO Volume 467.7m

**INTEREST RATES**

London Bank Base: 15%  
3-month Interbank 15%  
3-month Libor 14%  
US: Prime 10%  
Federal Funds 8.5%  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.68-7.68%  
30-year bonds 9.97-9.97%

**CURRENCIES**

London: New York:  
£ \$1.7065  
\$ £1.2035  
\$ \$1.4770\*  
\$ Ffr 9.6980  
\$ Yen 146.95\*  
\$ Index 90.2  
ECU 20.714304  
SDR 20.776468  
ECU 1.389964  
SDR 1.287888

**GOLD**

London: New York:  
AM \$41.00 pm 415.85  
close \$415.75-416.25 (2243.75-  
2442.25)  
New York:  
Comex \$416.80-417.30\*

**NORTH SEA OIL**

Brent (Apr.) ... \$19.20 bbl (\$19.45)  
Denotes latest trading price

**TOURIST RATES**

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.38	2.18
Austria Sch	20.95	19.75
Belgium Fr	7.21	6.95
Canada \$	2.12	2.02
Denmark Kr	11.45	10.85
Finland Mark	7.05	6.75
France Fr	10.11	9.51
Germany Dr	2.59	2.81
Greece Dr	25.00	25.00
Hong Kong \$	13.95	13.05
Ireland Pt	1.133	1.063
Italy Lira	2215	2000
Japan Yen	2.45	2.45
Malta Lira	3.35	3.17
Norway Kr	11.53	10.67
Portugal Esc	254	254
South Africa Rd	4.45	4.25
Spain Pta	191	179
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.23
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.47
Turkey Lira	455	525
USA \$	1.79	1.65
Yugoslavia Dinar	refer	refer

Forces for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index 119.5 (January)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# MONEY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

SECTION 2

17

Figures worse than expected after bad debt provisions

## Lloyds Bank plunges to £715m loss

By Neil Bennett

Lloyds Bank plunged to a loss of £715 million last year, from pre-tax profits of £952 million in 1988, after making a £1.76 billion provision against its Third World debt.

"It is absolutely no pleasure that we are presenting a very large loss for the second time in three years," said Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman.

The bank is raising its full year dividend to 13.3p, up 19 per cent. Lloyds' shares, however, fell 9p to 287p.

The fall was even worse than expected because of a 190 per cent rise to £345 million in provisions against other bad debts.

These included an international provision of £1.47 million, up from £61 million, because of a rising number of defaults and company failures in Australia.

The provisions also include an unspecified amount for legal costs and compensation to Abbey National after Lloyds Registrars' problems with the share flotation last summer.

The business has been reorganized, but the bank said it had not taken any disciplinary action. Mr Glyn Jones, the chief registrar, was replaced late last year.

Sir Jeremy said that the bank had provided fully for the year ahead. "We anticipate that there is going to be

turbulence at home and overseas and we have gone through the books very carefully," he added.

The third World provisions increased from only £53 million in 1988, and included £138 million in unpaid interest. Lloyds has now provided for 83 per cent of longer-term debt, the highest in the sector.

But the provisions reduced the bank's risk asset ratios from 10.1 to 7.4 per cent, below the minimum 8 per cent demanded by the Bank of England. However, Sir Jeremy said that the ratio had recovered to 9 per cent after recent asset sales, including its £190 million stake in Yorkshire Bank.

Attributable profits from British banking slowed sharply to £242 million in the second half, compared with £222 million at the interim stage, and Sir Jeremy sounded a warning about the bank's prospects this year.

He said: "We should be prepared for things to be a bit harder, not softer, although there is a lot to harvest in our UK banking business. It is a winter's day, but there is quite a lot of warmth in the sunshine."

Retail banking profits were also hit by a two-thirds fall in profits from credit cards to £1 million.

The card operation went into losses at the end of the



'Absolutely no pleasure': Sir Jeremy Morse, reflecting yesterday on Lloyds' plunge into loss

## Doubts over Courage pub deal

By David Tweed and Robert Cockburn, Sydney and Michael Tate, London

Grand Metropolitan said yesterday it is talking with other parties and looking at alternatives to the public houses/breweries swap with Elders IXL of Australia, as the political row concerning Mr John Elliott, the Elders chairman, erupted in Australia.

The row would also appear to have delayed the Elders placing of its 23 per cent of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, which has been ordered by the Monopolies Commission by the end of June.

Mr Elliott has begun proceedings for defamation against Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister. At a business lunch in Melbourne Mr Elliott, who is also president of the opposition Liberal party, launched a campaign to clear his name.

In a writ filed in the Victorian Supreme Court, Mr Elliott said Mr Hawke had been motivated by "express malice" when making comments about him and an alleged National Crime Authority investigation into two of his companies.

The writ follows reports on the Australian ABC television and ABC radio that the NCA is investigating the takeover of Elders IXL by Harila, a private company controlled by Mr Elliott.

Elders, which controls the Courage breweries and public houses in Britain, reported that high interest rates, a strong Australian dollar and Aus\$123 million (£55.16 million) of abnormal losses cut the equity-consolidated earnings for the six months to December by 46 per cent to Aus\$163.9 million from Aus\$305.4 million.

Mr Elliott described the results for the brewing, pastoral and agribusiness conglomerate as "disappointing but explainable".

Shareholders can opt for an unfranked interim dividend of Aus\$.5 cents a share, a 4 per cent improvement on the previous corresponding period, adjusted for bonus issues, or a Aus\$.78 cents payout franked to 31.37 per cent.

Agribusiness profits fell from Aus\$74.3 million to Aus\$30.6 million but reversed a loss made in the six months to June 30. Finance division pre-tax profit fell from Aus\$51.3 million to Aus\$25.5 million.

## JM 'doctor' to chair Ferranti for £275,000

By Colin Narbrough

industrial electronics and communications.

Some City analysts believe Ferranti is now likely to focus on the £350 million sales computer systems division and extract the company from other activities.

Mr Anderson, whose salary compares with Sir Derek's £190,000, said the company was "well on the road to restored financial health" with annual turnover of about £600 million. Furthermore, there was a good balance between defence and civil businesses.

Shortly after his appointment was announced yesterday, coinciding with the resignation of Sir Derek Alun-Jones from the twin positions, Mr Anderson said he hoped to have the defence electronics group turned round before he could exercise his options in three years' time.

Ferranti last month posted a £15.4 million pre-tax first-half loss, after an alleged £21.5 million fraud involving its US subsidiary cut a gaping hole in the balance sheet.

Mr Anderson, aged 51, said it was still early days to say how he would proceed, but saw his first task as putting together a "cogent strategy" for what will be left of the company after disposals.

His remarks strongly suggested that he will seek to shed further parts of the group, reducing it to a profitable core. After the £270 million sale to General Electric Co of Ferranti's defence systems arm, the group will be left with four main businesses - computer systems, weapon systems,

## Saatchi 'unlikely to reach £65m'

By Stephen Leather

Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising group, yesterday admitted that profits were unlikely to match expectations of about £65 million this year.

Mr Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the chief executive, said it was clear the industry faced a difficult year. But, Saatchi remained "very confident in the underlying strength of the communications business."

The statement was released

after the shares tumbled 44p to 138p amid fears over Saatchi's financial position. The group was also hit by the news that shareholders had served a lawsuit in a Los Angeles court alleging that investors had been misled over the value of their holdings.

Saatchi shares have been falling steadily. From just under 350p last October, they were about 220p last week.

Southeastern Asset Man-

agement, the US investment group, has been using the weakness to boost its stake. Mr Louis-Dreyfus said he had been told informally the group had acquired a further 2 per cent, for a total 13.2 per cent.

The shares were hit by the annual report this week, in which Mr Maurice Saatchi, chairman, said the group was cautious about the short term, they were about 220p last week.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Colonnade talks may lead to higher bid

Colonnade Development Capital, an investment trust run by British & Commonwealth, said talks were at an advanced stage over a possible offer for the company "appreciably in excess" of the 165p bid from Stratagem. A further announcement would be made "as soon as practicable" next week.

Colonnade had promised to make an announcement yesterday when the negotiations with unnamed third parties were revealed on Monday. The shares were unchanged at 165p. Stratagem speaks for 51 per cent of Colonnade after acceptances from local authority pension funds.

## Geest links with Fisheries

Geest, the fruit distributors, and Associated Fisheries have agreed to combine their fish processing businesses within a joint venture company. The share capital of DA Macrae, Associated's wholly-owned subsidiary, has been transferred to Macfish, Geest's subsidiary, in exchange for 50 per cent of Macfish. A £3-million capital injection will be made by Associated in the form of a three-year interest-free loan.

## Panfida buys stake in MRG

Panfida, the Australian investment group, is to buy a 47 per cent stake in MRG Holdings, the holding company for the Martin Retail Group, for £3.2 million. News International, publisher of *The Times*, has agreed to invest £10 million in Panfida by subscribing for 28.6 million Panfida ordinary shares at 35p each. It will also lend £30 million over five years to MRG at 10 per cent a year.

## Courtney edges ahead

Courtney, Pope, the leading shop-fitting and lighting group, suffered a profits squeeze in the six months to end-November. Sales 28.6 per cent better at £34.5 million merely edged pre-tax profits £31,000 higher to £1.87 million. The company says high interest rates had an adverse effect on results. It also had to make a £30,000 provision against bad debts after a shopping contractor went into liquidation.

The specialized signs business made no contribution to profits, suffering from cuts in spending by fashion retailers. About half of turnover came from engineering and specialist construction interests. The interim dividend rises to 3.75p (3.5p) on earnings per share of 9p (9.1p).

## SWP up 5% to £534,000

SWP Group, the builders' supplier, raised pre-tax profits by 5 per cent to £534,000 in the six months to end-December, despite sales down at £4.93 million (£2.5 million). Earnings rose 17 per cent to 1.58p a share. The group said prospects for the full-year were unclear in the light of uncertainty in the building market, but it intends to pay a final dividend. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

## RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	
Abrust Thai (100p)	55 -1
Analytic Hldgs	88 -2
Anglo Pkgs	27 -2
Anglo Scan Inv Trst	76 -1
Biscuite (42p)	84 -1
Cafe Ins	39 -1
Chartwell	220 -1
Chilemin Radio (210p)	300 -1
Clydebank	260 -2
East Surrey Water	214 -1
Eurononey	365 -1
Fastforward	120 -1
First Philip (50p)	38 -3
Gartmore Emerg Pacific	53 -3
Goldmining Netw	134 -1
Grange Dev (100p)	104 -1
Imperial Stone (32p)	40 -1
Lon & New York (100p)	90 -7
Malaysian Emerg	690 -5
Mickegate Gp (75p)	56 -2
(Issue price in brackets)	

## See main listing for Water shares

## Alumasc up 7% despite interest cost

By Our City Staff

Pre-tax profits at Alumasc Group, the aluminium products company and Britain's biggest beer barrel maker, rose by 7.6 per cent to £2.22 million in the six months to end-December, despite interest costs of £288,000 after a £62,000 credit last time.

Earnings per share climb from 11.4p to 11.7p, and the interim dividend rises to 2.85p, against 2.65p.

Strong growth in demand for aluminium containers boosted group turnover by 44 per cent to £25.3 million, helped by a contribution from Grundy, the barrel maker acquired in December 1988.

Losses were incurred on stainless steel keg production, Key facilities of the joint

Kiichi Miyazawa: 2,000 years of Japan, 200 years of America

on public works projects and to do something about extreme land prices, which make it expensive for US companies to set up in Japan and for shopkeepers to spare space for foreign products.

Japan says America should solve its own problems—huge budget deficit, low savings rate and poor education levels — before blaming Japan for

Washington's fiscal recklessness and the US \$50 billion trade deficit with Japan which complains it is being penalised for making goods Americans want to buy. It has downgraded what the US says "negotiations" into a less-binding "exchange of views."

They are signs that neither side has the will to make much headway. The flavour of the

power systems interests of the General Electric Company.

The process is likely to start to bite next year but it is expected to be slow so that the effect of any job reductions is likely to be mitigated by natural wastage.

The plans could also be modified according to how many orders GEC Alsthom secures from the crop of tenders it is submitting for power station projects in India, Africa, Iran and China. Key facilities of the joint

venture in Britain are at Trafford Park, Manchester, Rugby, Warwick, and Stafford. There are about 6,000 workers involved in both countries.

At the same time General Electric of America, taking a 10 per cent stake, has joined GEC Alsthom in creating a joint European gas-turbine building company.

The new group, the European Gas Turbine Co will bring together the large turbine building facilities of Alsthom and the smaller gas turbine facilities of Ruston of Lincoln owned by GEC. EGT uses a considerable amount of GE technology for the gas turbines. EGT will be able to

offer the power generation business small-scale turbines such as Ruston already supplies to Britain's North Sea oil industry for power generation and gas compression.

Alsthom's large plant, together with the full range of GE-developed large and small turbines are available, as well as small aviation turbines for use in military applications such as helicopters and transport aircraft.

The new group has already received orders to build combined heat-and-power plants in Birmingham, Cambridge, Spain and Denmark.

It also hopes to announce orders from the military helicopter sector shortly.

Manufacturing rationalisation affecting plants in Britain and France is being planned by GEC Alsthom, the 1988 joint venture which put together France's Alsthom with the power systems interests of the General Electric Company.

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venture in Britain

ors urged  
pressure  
efficient  
gements

Maria Waller

and the  
shareholders  
of the  
company  
have  
been  
invited  
to  
the  
shareholders  
meeting  
on  
Wednesday  
28th  
February  
at  
10.30am  
in  
the  
main  
auditorium  
of the  
London  
Stock  
Exchange  
18  
Broad  
Street  
London  
EC2V  
4LP

Mr David  
Hardy,  
chairman,  
said: "Globe  
has been  
building up  
its own  
portfolio  
of unquoted  
investments  
over the  
past three  
years."

He said: "We  
needed to  
reduce our  
over-large  
holding in  
Electra and  
we believe we  
did the fairest  
thing by offering  
it to our own  
shareholders."

# Globe ends 55-year link by selling Electra stake

By Jeremy Andrews

Globe Investment Trust has severed a 55-year association by selling its 26 per cent stake in Electra Investment Trust, which specializes in unquoted equity, for £101 million.

Globe has made an underwritten offer of the shares to its own shareholders at 260p, and Electra fell 20p to 260p after the announcement.

Mr David Hardy, chairman, said: "Globe has been building up its own portfolio of unquoted investments over the past three years."

He said: "We needed to reduce our over-large holding in Electra and we believe we did the fairest thing by offering it to our own shareholders."

It really isn't necessary for an investment trust to have a major holding in another."

One Electra share is offered for every 13.75 in Globe and for every £5.66 nominal of Globe convertible stock. The offer has been underwritten by Barings. The Coal Board pension funds, which hold 29 per cent of Globe, are taking up their full entitlement.

Globe was incorporated in 1873 to enable small investors to buy a portfolio of shares in cable companies. Its 42,000 individual shareholders own 30 per cent of the equity. It set up Electra Investment Trust in 1935 and four years after Electra's flotation in 1976,

Globe reduced its stake from 74 per cent to 26 per cent.

Electra has not always taken the same view about unquoted investments as Globe and last year did not take part in the Gateway offer by Isoscelles, of which Globe was one of the four founding shareholders.

However, Mr Hardy denied there was any fundamental disagreement between Globe and Electra. He said Globe had invested £25 million in Electra Private Equity Partners. Electra's new £486 million fund, and had taken a 5 per cent stake in Electra Kingsway Managers, its management company.

By December, 1989, un-

listed investments amounted to £185 million of Globe's £1.23 billion portfolio and it intended to raise the proportion to 20 per cent. Meanwhile, the proceeds could be invested in Britain to produce a yield of 15 per cent, considerably better than the 3 per cent yield on Electra shares. The offer price represented a 20 per cent discount to Electra's current net asset value.

Mr Michael Bentley, Electra's deputy chairman, said Globe's disposal of the stake was entirely to be expected. The setback to Electra's share price resulted from the timing of the offer on a day when the market was weak.

## LWT sees fainter revenue picture



JON CHAPMAN

Outlook flat: Christopher Bland, chairman of LWT Holdings, announcing the company's figures for 17 months

Mr Christopher Bland, the chairman of LWT (Holdings), the London Weekend television contractor which obtained shareholder approval for a radical capital reorganization last November, expects a flat revenue outlook for the rest of the year (Philip Pangale writes).

Growth in the final quarter of 1989 was about 2 per cent, and this was followed by a reasonable January, although February and March are likely to show a sharp year-on-year decline. Pre-tax profits rose to £45.03 million in the 17-month period to end-December, from £15 million in the previous 12 months. The shares reacted with a 3p fall to 82p.

LWT said the staff and cost reductions are beginning to have a favourable effect

on the group's margins and profits. An exceptional £3.4 million has been charged for redundancy and retirement costs, with staff numbers now 28 per cent down at 409 compared with August 1987.

There was an extraordinary gain of £19.4 million from the sale of LWT's interest in the ITP, the publisher of 7V Times, and in Century Hutchinson.

The company announced a second interim dividend of 60p, making 62.45p for the 17-month period, paid in connection with the capital reorganization. No other dividend will be paid. Pre-forms earnings per share rose to 31.4p before exceptional items and to 29p after them.

Last October the company reported pre-tax profits for the year to end-July up 33 per cent to £30.8 million, boosted by increased advertising revenue in the television company, which was up 14 per cent down at 409 compared with August 1987.

At last November's extraordinary meeting, 82 per cent of LWT's shareholders voted in favour of a financial restructuring, which could make paper millions of several LWT staff.

Turnover for the 17 months was £351.3 million, which includes £49.7 million network income from the barter scheme in operation in 1988, compared with £223 million for the 12 months to end-July 1988, and £100 million for the five months to end-December 1988. The Exchequer levy is down from 29.94 million to £1.27 million.

Corporate banking division, took a view that cost a cool £116 million. This does nothing for Midland's credibility, still a fragile thing after three years under Sir Kit McMahon's aegis, and weakens Midland's hand in negotiating a full merger with Hongkong Bank.

Some banking mistakes are understandable, others unforgivable. I put in the second category the experience of a reader with Barclays.

Midland's tale is different — and worse. A story of a loss of £261 million in which a significant factor was Midland Montagu's misjudgement of the likely course of sterling interest rates. If he feels compelled to raise income tax Mr Major is likely to go down the same freezing route as Sir Geoffrey Howe.

If the Chancellor wants to demonstrate he is his own man he will resist the short-term political argument of the Prime Minister and others to raise the ceiling on mortgage relief from £30,000 set in 1983. The real value of this relief has withered in the wind of inflation and the only thing to be said in favour of putting up the figure is that it would ease some of the pain caused by escalating mortgage rates. The better way of doing that would be to bring down mortgage rates. This would happen later rather than sooner if extra tax relief prematurely reduced downward pressures on house prices.

The Chancellor I like to be his own man. He does not, however, shine forth as a charismatic figure and in keeping

Swedes bid £47m for Runciman

By Our City Staff

Avena, a Swedish property and security group, yesterday launched a £47.8 million cash bid for Walter Runciman, the shipping and security group.

Walter Runciman, which held talks with Avena after it bought a 28.5 per cent stake last December, responded with a holding statement, saying the board would meet on Monday and that, meanwhile, shareholders should take no action.

The Runciman board is expected to reject the bid early next week. Avena also said it held acceptances for 4.4 per cent of the shares. On the news, Runciman's shares leapt 48p to 520p — exactly matching the cash terms.

Mr Hans Eliasson, the president of Avena, said: "The combination of Avena and Runciman will create a strong European security equipment group."

Last year, Walter Runciman defeated a 325p-a-share bid from Telfos Holdings which later sold its stake to the Swedes.

Avena said the terms were 22 per cent more than just before it bought its holding and valued Walter Runciman at 17.6 times' 1988 earnings.

BSA calls for drive to attract savers and stay competitive

By Jon Ashworth

Britain's building societies must do more to attract new savers if they hope to remain competitive, the Building Societies Association has claimed.

Last month, net deposits with the societies exceeded withdrawals for the first time in three months, by £369 million. But savers were investing twice as much this time last year.

Mr Mark Boate, BSA director general, said the rise in net receipts was partly due to savers reinvesting after the winter share issue. He welcomed the increase, but said receipts remained uncomfortably low.

The latest figure is almost

pay dividends after a reorganization of the reserves.

Sir Ron Brierley has been frustrated in his attempt to clear the first hurdle in his £55 million bid for the GPG financial services group.

Mr Robert Maxwell, Lord Kissin and other disgruntled minority shareholders joined forces at yesterday's GPG meetings, defeating a special resolution that would have put the board in a position to

pay dividends after a reorganization of the reserves.

Mr Maxwell and Lord Kissin have put themselves in a position to frustrate the 17p-a-share bid by Sir Ron's IEP by lifting their stakes through market buys.

They control 28.5 per cent of GPG. Mr Maxwell has been buying shares at about 5p above the offer price, taking his holding to 17.45 per cent. And Lord Kissin, founder of

IEP says it has 61 per cent acceptances.

Family Money, page 23

## Rebels defeat GPG board

By Sam Parkhouse

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Family Money, page 23

NatWest should take most of the blame, says Swiss bank

## UBS stands firm on Arrow affair

By John Bell, City Editor

National Westminster should accept most of the responsibility for losses suffered by investors in the Blue Arrow affair, according to the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Mr Robert Studer, UBS chief executive, pledged that the bank would honour its obligations but stressed that it played only a junior role in the affair. "We will not walk away from our responsibilities but they must be in the correct proportion," he said after the announcement of the bank's annual results in Zurich.

The £837 million Blue Arrow rights issue flopped disastrously, but County NatWest, NatWest's investment banking subsidiary, later announced that the unsold shares had been placed successfully. It emerged in a Department of Trade investigation that large lines of

stock had been warehoused by UBS and NatWest subsidiaries. Former employees of both organizations are facing charges arising from the affair.

County NatWest and Phillips & Drew, UBS's stockbroking subsidiary, are now in dispute over a scheme to compensate investors. County has offered to pay up to 30p per share to some investors, but P&D balked at the idea of paying an equal share of compensation.

"NatWest offered 50-50 and we're of the opinion that's not the situation," said Mr Studer, adding that the fact P&D was only mentioned on some 20 pages of the DTT's 200-page report into the affair gave a fair indication of P&D's share of the blame. He also said P&D would make a loss in 1989 and a smaller loss in 1990, but expected it to be in profit by 1991. In Zurich UBS bearer shares opened at SwFr3.880 (£1.566), down slightly on the previous day's close of

SwFr3.920, after the bank announced it was offering to exchange all its participation certificates for bearer shares and increasing charges arising from the affair.

Mr Studer said the bank had no plans to open its registered shares to foreigners and would continue to maintain a 5 per cent limit on any single registered shareholding.

## Saving grace that could make the grey Chancellor's name

**KENNETH FLEET**

with his grey political character and the needs of the time he may well produce a dull Budget on March 20. Not for him the great VAT splash Sir Geoffrey Howe made in his first Budget, or the big Lawson plunge into corporation tax reform on his debut in 1984. I could be quite wrong.

Substantial changes in corporation tax including a cut in the 35 per cent rate, though earning him plaudits from industry, would amount to neither a splash nor a plunge. The Chancellor should take on savings.

While the effect of tax inducements on our willingness to save is a hotly contested issue, the collapse in personal saving and the urge to spend are undeniably partly responsible for current economic troubles. Nor can any one dispute the fact that the tax treatment of savings cries out for reform. Owner-occupied homes and personal pensions receive favourable tax treatment whereas saving in interest-bearing deposit accounts is heavily penalized. Decisions on how to save should not be distorted by tax calculations.

Mr Major may not be a sweeping tax reformer but he will miss a great opportunity, as well as neglecting his duty as Chancellor, not to take some initiative in this area. The Extended Personal Equity Plan put forward by the Institute for Fiscal Studies would make an admirable beginning.

The concept is simple: to extend to all savings the privilege of not being taxed already enjoyed by most forms of saving. Personal Equity Plans do this for investment in equities and unit trusts. An extended PEP would provide tax-free returns from interest-bearing deposits. There would be a limit, as with PEPs, on the amount that could be invested and the Inland Revenue would need to be alert to tax avoidance. Too complicated for ordinary mortals to bother? Perhaps, but it would be a step in the right direction to have a tax regime for all personal saving, not just homes and pensions.

## Bankers and their mistakes

**T**he clearing banks are not at their best, but perhaps they never were. Their exuberant excursion into Third World lending has left a trail of bad debts and huge provisions made against them have cut a swathe through profits. They have reduced National Westminster's pre-tax profits by £1 billion and turned Lloyds from a healthy profit to a loss of £715 million.

Midland's tale is different — and worse. A story of a loss of £261 million in which a significant factor was Midland Montagu's misjudgement of the likely course of sterling interest rates. If he feels compelled to raise income tax Mr Major is likely to go down the same freezing route as Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Some banking mistakes are understandable, others unforgivable. I put in the second category the experience of a reader with Barclays.

After she had deposited a cheque from her stockbrokers she received a letter from Barclays "noting from our records" the deposit and whence it came and drawing attention "to our Barclayshare Service." She was

amazed; so were her stockbrokers; so am I.

Has the concept of banking confidentiality gone completely out of the window in this wickedly competitive world? Do all banks pursue customers' accounts to find "prospects" for direct mailing by their selling divisions?

The branch manager was apologetic. "Inexcusable" behaviour ... "steps being taken" etc. At this particular branch, however, it appears that "approaches" are still being made, not by letter but over the counter when brokers' cheques are paid in. This is against the rules.

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## WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) — The Dow Jones industrial average was down 10 points at 2,564.77 after less than 10 minutes of trading, with many issues in the Dow average not open for trading because of an influx of orders, dealers said.

Shares generally opened broadly lower following Tokyo's second severe loss this week. Falling prices outnumbered rises by four to one.

• Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index lost 33.61 at 2,894.31 after recovering from its afternoon low of 2,863. The broader-based Hong Kong index lost 22.18 to 1,899.22.

• Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index sank 27.9 to 1,580.1 after breaching the 1,600 psychological level. Shares retreated heavily under pressure from Tokyo.

By Matthew Bond

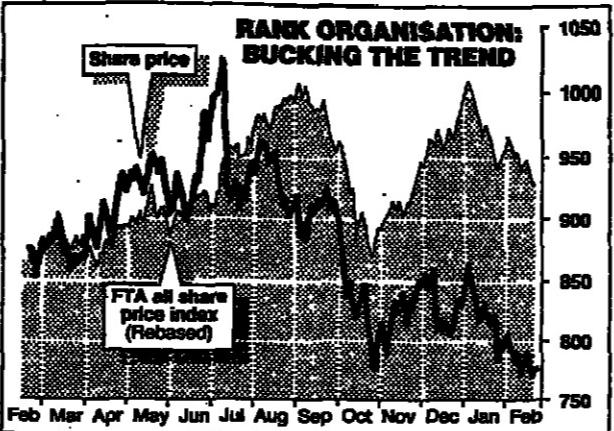
The trouncing of Saatchi & Saatchi continued yesterday. After Thursday's 20p drop, Saatchi's shares went into freefall.

They tumbled 51p to 131p, wiping 28 per cent from the company's market value in a day. In the last five days, the fall in Saatchi shares, which started the week at 225p, has wiped £150 million from the market value of what was once the world's largest advertising group.

Analysts are slightly puzzled by the sudden dramatic slide in Saatchi's popularity, arguing that all the bad news has been known for some time. Much is made of the put option which holders of the 1988 convertible issue hold and will doubtless exercise in 1993, given the gap between the current share price and the 44p conversion price.

Mr Mark Sheppard of Phillips & Drew, the broker, believes this could cost the company up to £211 million in 1993. Profits for 1990 are forecast at about £65 million. But the sudden slide in the share price suggests there might be rather more immediate problems ahead.

While the Saatchi brothers must be wishing they had never heard of Madison Avenue, Mr James Gatward, the chief executive of TVS Entertainment, must be thinking the same about Miss Mary Tyler Moore, the American actress. Things for TVS have not been the same since it bought the American production company that bears her initials,



Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Shares in Rank Organisation defied the trend, closing 4p higher at 783p, above. Since its surprise £257 million rights issue, accompanied by the rights, on Monday, the shares go ex-dividend. Some correction is inevitable but, once that is out of the way, Schroders' Mr Richard Harwood believes, the shares could begin to make progress. The expected pre-tax profits of £258 million and earnings per share of 84.3p for the current year put the shares on a prospective p/e of only 9.3.

MTM, for £190 million in 1988.

As reports grew that the company was having trouble finding a buyer for a 49 per cent stake in MTM, the shares continued to explore new ground at the wrong end of their now large trading range. After Thursday's 22p drop, MTM shares fell another 6p to a low of 92p.

WPP, which followed Saatchi's transatlantic expansion by buying J Walter Thompson and then Ogilvy & Mather, was also marked down but far less dramatically. Its shares fell 15p to 648p.

Elsewhere, buyers rushed

for cover with the end of the account coinciding with another

her large overnight fall in Tokyo. Dealers believe that, while London and New York have to date defied the downward pressure from Tokyo, another serious correction in Japan next week could send both markets tumbling.

Volume in the early part of the day was higher than expected given the speed at which the FTSE 100 opened up a 30-point fall. But much of the trade was technical and trading slowed appreciably ahead of Wall Street's opening, as the deficit widened to 40 points. However, as Wall Street held its nerve, London steadied. At 3.30 pm, the FTSE 100 stood 33.6 points down at 2,235.6, with the FT

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30 index down 27.1 at 1,762.7.

It was not the sort of day for any broking house contemplating placing large stakes. Scottish & Newcastle, where the market had been looking for Elders IXL of Australia to place its 23.7 per cent stake, was 11p lower at 303p on talk that Elders had declined an offer of 287p for its shares.

At Enterprise Oil, where the market has been expecting ICI to place its 24.9 per cent holding, the shares fell 6p to 622p.

STC, which is fast becoming a nest of rumours, with the market undecided whether Northern Telecom of Canada is looking for a buyer for its 27.4 per cent stake or whether Sun Microsystems, the American company, might get involved with STC's computer subsidiary, ICL. Opinion narrowly favours the latter and the shares edged only 5p lower to 260p.

Globe Investment Trust, however, had no such placing problems with its long-standing 26 per cent stake in fellow investment trust, Electra.

Rather than seek an institutional buyer for the stake, the always innovative Globe is to offer the shares to its own shareholders. For every 1.75 shares in Globe, Globe shareholders get one share in Electra, priced at 260p each.

Electra shares fell sharply on the news, closing down 20p at 266p, leaving Globe shareholders who accept the offer a modest profit on the deal. Globe shares finished 64p lower at 166p.

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## *Portfolio.*

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2	Cardiff Prop	Property
3	Capita	Industrials A-D
4	Oil Search	Oil,Gas
5	Brewster	Drapery, Stores
6	Fleugel C&W	Industrials E-K
7	TT Group	Industrials S-Z
8	Wilson Bowden	Building,Roads
9	Lewis	Textiles
10	Cropper (James)	Paper,Print,Adv
11	Dalgety (aa)	Foods
12	GPG	Banka,Discount
13	Rank Org (aa)	Industrials L-R
14	Clarkson (H)	Transport
15	Kenshaw (A)	Industrials E-K
16	Derwent Hides	Property
17	Vivat	Drapery, Stores
18	Hoskyns Gp	Electricals
19	Ezbro	Industrials E-K
20	Waterford Wedge	Industrials S-Z
21	Nat West (aa)	Banka,Discount
22	Bobby (J)	Industrials A-D
23	Brae Bros	Foods
24	Moss Bros	Drapery, Stores
25	Sutcliffe Spearmen	Chemicals,Plas
26	Appliance Hides	Foods
27	Entleys	Foods
28	Istons	Industrials E-K
29	Fisher (James)	Transport
30	MacKey (Hugh)	Textiles
31	Scholes Gp	Electricals
32	Copacob PLC	Building,Roads
33	Aus Oil & Gas	Oil,Gas
34	McLeod Russell	Industrials L-R
35	Waverley Cam	Paper,Print,Adv
36	Hanbury	Industrials E-K
37	Independent	Newspapers,Pub
38	Macfarlane	Industrials L-R
39	Macarthy	Industrials L-R
40	Eurocopy	Industrials E-K
41	Watmough	Paper,Print,Adv
42	Bristol	Newspapers,Pub
43	Hardys & Hamsons	Breweries
44	CALA	Building,Roads

**Please take into account any minus signs**

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Week Total

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**BRITISH FUNDS**

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	Weekend Total
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**MON**   **TUE**   **WED**   **THU**   **FRI**   **SAT**   **SUN**

100 200 300 400 500

#### **Summary: Under Five Years**

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

70%	72%	Ges	3%	1990-95	75%	83%	85%
101%	57%	Each	104%	1990-95	75	83	85
100%	57%	Trees	122%	1995	86%	84	85
113%	57%	Trees	122%	1995	103%	92	92
87%	84%	Trees	97%	1990-95	87%	83	83
101%	84%	Cow	100%	1990	87%	85	85
177%	84%	Each	100%	1990	87%	85	85
117%	85%	Trees	144%	1995	107%	94	94
85%	85%	Trees	154%	1995	114%	102	102
104%	85%	Each	84%	1995	104%	94	94
118%	104%	Trees	125%	1995	94	111	115
185%	114%	Each	131%	1995	105%	124	119
120%	114%	Each	157%	1997	114%	133	120
84%	70%	Trees	97%	1995	117%	133	120
106%	85%	Each	94%	1995	98%	117	111
127%	85%	Each	124%	1995	107%	111	107
134%	114%	Trees	157%	1995	119%	129	118
100%	85%	Trees	157%	1995	109%	118	118
104%	82%	Cow	107%	1995	109%	118	118
105%	82%	Each	107%	1995	109%	118	118
115%	80%	Each	121%	1995	110%	124	117
84%	70%	Trees	65%	2000	95%	104	113
120%	70%	Trees	54%	2000	95%	104	113
128%	107%	Trees	134%	2000	107%	120	117
102%	85%	Trees	94%	2001	90%	110	110
105%	85%	Trees	157%	2001	91%	104	104
124%	85%	Each	147%	1995-01	105%	112	112
87%	84%	Each	97%	2002	95%	104	104
102%	87%	Trees	94%	2002	90%	104	104

**100% 97% Govt 67% 2004  
100% 91% Trade 10% 2004  
113% 65% Trade 113% 2001-04**

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS		1995	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
103%	88%	Cov	91%	2005	89%	89%	89%	105%	110%
111%	88%	Exch	100%	2005	89%	89%	89%	108%	108%
125%	102%	Thres	127%	2005-05	102%	89%	89%	114%	112%
90%	77%	Thres	87%	2006	75%	89%	89%	102%	108%
95%	81%	Thres	89%	2007	63%	89%	89%	102%	108%
112%	103%	Thres	111%	2007-07	103%	89%	89%	113%	112%
101%	85%	Thres	97%	2008	89%	89%	89%	104%	104%
134%	75%	Thres	135%	2008-08	115%	89%	89%	115%	111%
92%	76%	Thres	87%	2009	79%	89%	89%	101%	101%
102%	85%	Cov	91%	2011	87%	89%	89%	103%	105%
88%	67%	Thres	86%	2012-02	75%	89%	89%	94%	102%
88%	75%	Thres	75%	2012-12	75%	89%	89%	94%	102%
102%	112%	Exch	12%	2012-17	112%	..	104%	104%	104%

**35% 23%  
45% 37%  
28% 28%**

115% 102% 110%  
113% 100% 108%  
95% 84% 110%

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP									
1989/90			Price		Gross		Y/M		
High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Change	Chg %	Pd	Pa	
151	130	Abbey National (m)	175	177	-	10.3	5.8	7.2	
262	239	Albert Bank	240	257	-4	1.6	1.8	9.7	
532	525	Argo Co.	525	525	-5	4.4	1.8	9.7	
51	52	Amersham (Family)	72	75	-	2.7	3.8	20.8	
218	210	Am Natl Z	207	201	-7	..	..	..	
104	100	Barclays	104	104	-	..	..	..	

**BANKS, DISCOUNT HP**

## **STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES**

## Poor end to account

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings began February 12. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day February 26. Settlement day March 5.  
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.



Edited by Jon Ashworth

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# OFT 'concern' at ban on discounts for Baring funds

By Tony Hetherington

The Office of Fair Trading is to be asked to investigate a decision by Baring Fund Managers to refuse to deal with firms of financial intermediaries which advertise discounts on unit trusts.

In a letter to three such firms, Mr Peter Hall, Baring's marketing director, says: "It has come to my notice that your company has recently been advertising in this way, and in view of this I must reluctantly inform you that Baring Fund Managers is not prepared to accept deals from your company, with effect from the date of this letter."

One of the three firms affected, Chelsea Financial Services, believes the ban stifles competition by restricting the sale of units in Baring's 17 funds to financial advisers who charge the same price as that quoted to investors who approach Baring directly.

Chelsea managing director Mr John Holder said: "We have been in touch with the Office of Fair Trading and they are most concerned. They say they have never come

across the situation before and want to look into it as a matter of urgency."

"We have put about £100 million into unit trusts over the past few years, and we have more than 5,000 clients. We do not have this problem with any other fund manager just Baring."

Intermediaries regularly advertise in the national press, offering discounts as high as 4.5 per cent on the cost of units. The discounts are given in the form of extra units, so, for example, units which would normally cost £1,045 would cost only £1,000.

The intermediaries achieve this by negotiating special deals with the fund managers, but primarily by giving up some or even all of their own commission, which is typically 3 per cent of the sum invested.

Now Baring has refused to accept deals from intermediaries advertising discounts because, it claims, the minority of commission-splitting intermediaries is threatening

the much larger body of financial advisers who charge investors the full price.

"There is a very large industry of intermediaries out there who spend an awful lot of time, effort and money in advising and developing their own client base," said Mr Hall.

"It seemed to us that the very few companies who were advertising discounts were inducing somebody else's clients to come and deal with them. We did not feel that was fair to the intermediaries who were putting in all the effort."

Baring's ban has so far been imposed on three intermediaries. "Owlers will be written to within the next day or two," the company said. "Our rule is a rule of principle and any adviser who goes against it will be treated in the same way."

The decision has been attacked by Chelsea Financial Services. Mr David Llewellyn, a director, said: "We feel very badly about this because Baring's are good funds. We feel we should be able to offer them to our clients. The

discount comes from our commission, so it does not affect them one iota. We receive 3 per cent commission and we refund 2 per cent to our clients in extra units."

"If a client rings up and wants to put £10,000 into Baring funds, we now have to say that unfortunately we are not allowed to deal with them."

Mr Llewellyn added that Baring's decision made it impossible for Chelsea to give the best advice possible to clients, as required by investor protection laws. "As far as best advice is concerned, it makes a mockery out of the whole thing," he said.

Baring directors refuse to name the other intermediaries against whom they have acted,

but companies which have recently advertised discounts on unit trusts include Premier Fund Managers of Guildford, Surrey, who offer up to 3 per cent extra on all British unit trusts; Credenda Limited of Woking, Surrey offering discounts of up to 4 per cent; and Tudor Jones & Associates of South Glamorgan, also offering 4 per cent.

The management regrets: John Holder and David Llewellyn (right) with the Barings letter

or more. *BoatmanBuilder*, an instant access account, will pay between 7.25 per cent and 10.5 per cent, while the net rate on *PlatinumBond* – the two-year limited issue bond – is now 12.2 per cent.

For savers with £5,000 or more, *Lloyds Bank* offers the same 12 per cent rate on a fixed-rate deposit scheme, available until March 16.

The gross rate on £50,000 or more works out at 15.4 per cent.

*Leeds* savers can now earn 13.08 per cent net annually or 12.50 monthly on sums of £25,000 or more.

*Liquid Gold* pays a top rate of 16.75 per cent net on £10,000 or more,

while the 90-day *Solid Gold* account pays 11.75 per cent on balances over £25,000.

*Nationwide Anglia* has raised the rate on *CapitalBonds*, its 90-day account, to 11.75 per cent on £25,000.

*13.95 per cent fixed-rate mortgage*.

Its 13.5 per cent plan was snapped up within 24 hours. Savers have seen bank and building society rates go through the roof. *Nationwide Anglia* and the *Leeds* have said they will raise investment rates by up to 1 per cent, and other big names are set to follow.

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No. of adults to be covered: No. of unmarried children, aged under 21, to be covered.	Date of birth of eldest adult		
Postcode	Do you already have private medical insurance?	Yes	No
Telephone: Home	If yes, what is the renewal date?		

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## FAMILY MONEY

### Flaw in law foils pension plans

Private pension holders who contracted out of the state pension scheme stand to lose hundreds of pounds because of mistakes in the system, it has been claimed (See Ashworth writes).

Mr Martin Kora, a partner with Blick Rothenberg, the chartered accountant, said thousands have still not had Serps relate paid into their personal pension plans. Even worse, employees who buy themselves back into Serps between jobs, stand to make nothing because of a flaw in the pensions legislation.

He said: "The whole system is crazy - neither the Department of Social Services nor the insurance companies seem to know whether the amounts are right or how they are calculated. No one seems to care about the man in the street."

The Government has used incentives to encourage people to "contract out" and arrange their pension privately. As many

parties and into personal pensions. This, says Mr Kora, is not always the case.

Some job-changers may have to wait up to a year before they can join a new company pension scheme, going back into Serps in the meantime. According to Blick Rothenberg, any pension rights that build up during that time cannot be paid into a personal pension.

The DSS says that it will look into whether the rules can be changed to allow payment.

Many life companies say that they are satisfied with the way the system is working. Legal & General, which has sold more than 150,000 rebate-only pensions, reports few problems. NPL, which has sold 130,000 plans, says that the system is running quite smoothly. "There are still some outstanding rebates, but we are starting to talk in dozens rather than hundreds," it said.



Kora: Problems with contracting-out as four million people have done this. A rebate, made up of National Insurance contributions and tax relief, should be channelled from the Department of Social Security to the insurance com-

Barbara Ellis takes the managers to task

### Perils of Pep picking

Close to £1 billion has poured into personal equity plans since last year's Budget rewrote the rules governing these tax-free investments.

But analysts monitoring the 300 different Peps presently on offer say that many of the 100 managers operating them are overselling the tax breaks available, blinding investors to the importance of comparing charges and performance.

"Picking the wrong Pep can wipe out the benefit of the tax savings for years to come," says Mr John Spiers, of Best Pep Advice, which uses "immediate realization value" (IRV) to compare plan charges.

This figure is arrived at by deducting such items as share dealing commission, stamp duty and VAT from the amount invested and allowing for the bid/offer spread on shares and unit trusts.

However, although Best Pep claims that its measure shows how much an investor would receive if the Pep were cashed

in immediately after subscription, Mr Spiers concedes that it does not take account of withdrawal charges. These often amount to at least £10 and there may be limits on the money taken out.

"In practice we didn't think people should be taking Peps out with a view to closing them down in the short term," said Mr Spiers, adding that the

cost on their side, says Mr Spiers, who adds it is a myth that investors do better by buying shares direct. This is because of the difference between the 0.2 per cent brokerage unit trusts pay when buying shares and the 1.5 to 1.8 per cent charged to individuals.

Another cost often overlooked is the spread between

#### ● In practice we didn't think people should be taking Peps out with a view to closing them down in the short term ■

IRV gives a realistic picture of what charges would be across the first year of operation.

Peps were launched in 1987 with the aim of encouraging direct investment in shares. But after determined lobbying by the unit trust industry, the Pep unit trust limit was raised to £2,400 out of the £4,800 allowed per plan. Unit trust only plans now have lower

buying and selling prices for shares which can range from 1.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

On the evidence of the survey, Mr Spiers says investors should stay away from Peps set up by intermediaries, as these simply add on unnecessary extra costs.

However, some of the targets of Best Pep's comments question its conclusions. Neilson

Milnes, a Liverpool broker, is named as a high charger both for discretionary and self-select plans, but Mr Roderick Primrose there says because of discounts no investor would actually have to pay as much as the survey indicates.

"Best Pep does not take into account how the business is done," he says, as most of his firm's Peps are sold direct to existing clients, not through agents on high commission.

Also named as a high charger for discretionary plans is Whitechurch Securities of Bristol, which has taken about £350,000 in Pep money from 100 clients since launching a plan run by broker W J Carr in December. Mr Keen Seager of Whitechurch said he did not recall giving information to Best Pep.

"I can't apologise for earning about £100 on a £2,500 investment. I think that's a reasonable amount for the work we do," he said. His firm specializes in picking investment trusts.

#### BRIEFINGS

■ Clerical Medical in Jersey has launched a retirement savings plan for Britons living abroad. The International Pension Account, a retirement annuity contract, pays benefits as a cash sum. The minimum regular premium is £50 a month for at least two years, and the initial single premium is £4,000. The cash sum will be paid free of any tax in Jersey.

■ Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers' Asian Trader

Trust took in £41 million in just two days when it went on offer earlier this month. Savers can invest lump sums of £1,000 or £50 a month in the trust, which will invest in Tiger markets like Malaysia and Indonesia. There is an initial charge of 5.25 per cent and an annual 1.5 per cent.

■ Girobank is offering a range of discounts on car insurance to its Visa cardholders. A new service, Motor Connection, offers a discount

of £1 in £15 on car insurance premiums. The service is underwritten by General Accident. Quotations are available on freephone 0800 833 141.

■ Scottish Widows has launched a Personal Equity Plan which carries a 1 per cent discount until March 27. In addition, anyone investing in the plan will be eligible for a similar discount on next year's plan. There is an initial 5.5 per cent charge on the share

portion of the Pep, with an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent. There are no extra Pep charges on the unit trust portion.

■ The importance of planning early for retirement is the theme of a new guide to pensions by Abbey Life. The Concise Guide to Personal Pensions also looks at the benefits of leaving the state pension scheme and examines how personal pensions work.

Tel (0202) 292373.

### £35 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE LOTS OF MONEY

A unit trust savings plan is ideal for regular investment in equities. It takes the worry out of when to invest. If you had started a £35 a month plan in M&G Recovery Fund in May 1969 you would have built up a capital investment of £156,104 by 29th December 1989 for an outlay of £8,645. Past performance cannot be guaranteed for the future. M&G Recovery Fund buys shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Start your plan now for as little as £35 a month. You can add to your investment at any time and are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The price of units and the income reinvested can go down as well as up.

The M&G Group is the winner of the 1989 Money Management magazine large unit trust group of the year award and the fund management group of the decade award.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

On 29th December 1989 the offered price for Accumulation units was 950.00 and the spread between the 'offered price' and the 'bid' price was 5.33%.

The prices are calculated as 915.00 each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the 'offered price' (at which you buy units) and the 'bid' price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range of +/- 1.5% of the base rate. Standardised regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. The Manager's annual charge is 1%. The Manager's annual charge, fees (currently 0.05% plus VAT) and Registar's fees (currently 0.08%

plus VAT) based on the fund's mid-market value are deducted from gross income pro-rata on the first day of each Stock Exchange Account. There are no extra charges for the manager's fees. Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into accumulation units. In the event of payment of income net of basic rate tax is automatically reinvested to increase their value. Higher rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. Non-taxpayers can reclaim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue.

Capital gains tax 1989/90: An individual's first £5,000 of capital gains is exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 are added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982

plus VAT based on the fund's mid-market value are deducted from gross income pro-rata on the first day of each Stock Exchange Account. There are no extra charges for the manager's fees. Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into accumulation units. In the event of payment of income net of basic rate tax is automatically reinvested to increase their value. Higher rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. Non-taxpayers can reclaim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue.

Scheme Participants can withdraw the value of the Plan at any time.

Notes: All figures exclude re-invested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society Capital Gains Tax Rate is 10%.

M&G Recovery figures are realisation values. An investment of £35 a month in M&G Recovery Fund from 31st December 1984 (£21,000) would have grown to £34,933 by 29th December 1989 with net income reinvested. Estimated.

Notes: All figures exclude re-invested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society Capital Gains Tax Rate is 10%.

You can buy or sell units on any business day by written instruction. When you realise your holding by the Scheme Participants you will normally receive a cheque within a few days. The Trustee of the Recovery Fund is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited. The Scheme is a wider range investment and is authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Scheme Participants can withdraw the value of the Plan at any time.

Notes: All figures exclude re-invested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society Capital Gains Tax Rate is 10%.

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مِنَ الْأَحْلَامِ

## FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth sizes up the very latest in Business Expansion Schemes

**Artesian aims for capital for its assured tenancies**

and investment company."

To do so, Artesian needs capital, and it has already invested £2.6 million of the 1989 proceeds in a handful of "strategic" properties in and around London. All can be redeveloped after the four-year gap required under the BES, using rents and interest on remaining cash for a yield in the meantime.

Artesian has its eye on homes which can either be split into flats or perhaps have an extension or two added to enhance the value. It may also purchase a property alongside the plot marked for redevelopment, helping it to ride on the back of any later gains.

The stump in house sales and high cost of borrowing

make this the best time to buy, the backers say. "You invest during the slump and wait for the cycle to swing round," said Mr Smith.

Investors may find themselves wary of backing a scheme with no sponsor to back it up. But Artesian I was billed as one of the best unsponsored issued available,

while Airway Homes I, which was also unsponsored, became the most successful single BES of the year.

Going it alone can save as much as £50,000 in sponsorship fees. On top of that, the backers are underwriting £1 million of the issue themselves, doing away with expensive underwriting fees.

If the full £5 million is raised, a maximum £180,000 will be paid in costs and commission. The directors are rewarded handsomely — but only once investors are guaranteed a fixed yield.

Higher rate taxpayers must be certain of a yield of 20 per cent annually, before the directors take their cut. At that time, the return would be a sizeable 24 per cent of the company itself, working out at £3 million on paper between nine directors.

The bottom line, though, is that Artesian II is investing with property speculation in mind.

Assured tenancies are relatively safe investments, but the element of risk is always there. The offer closes on March 20.

**Investors invited to climb aboard**

Ships, universities and even the Lake District pub shippers in the latest batch of BES issues. One of the more colourful entrants is Carisbrooke Shipping which, unlike many of the schemes, can look back on a track record of over 20 years.

When Carisbrooke was founded on the Isle of Wight in 1969, it had just one small ship to its name. It now owns five, with one more on the way, and hopes to act as manager to four others.

"We are now poised to expand considerably," said Mrs Greta Croucher, who took over the running of the company after her husband died in 1981. "BES investors are invited to climb aboard."

Chancery, which is sponsoring the issue, said the company would benefit from an increase in trade with the Continent as European markets begin to open up. Carisbrooke expects to announce pre-tax profits of £600,000 for 1989 — well up on £350,000 in 1988.

The Lake District makes its debut on the BES stage with the help of Sun Life Investment Management, which is launching the fourth version of its popular BesRes scheme.

While BesRes Lakeland focuses on homes in the Lake District, BesRes Campus has pitched itself at the student market. It plans to buy accommodation on a university campus, with the university undertaking to buy it back after five years at a premium of 30 per cent of the price paid.

The scheme opens next week, and is due to close on April 5. Minimum investment is £5,000.

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**Airways Homes' flying start**

When Mr Steven Rowe dreamed up Airways Homes in October 1988, he knew it had a good chance of success.

What he did not know was that it would become one of the most popular Business Expansion Schemes ever, easily attracting the maximum £5 million allowed under the BES rules.

Since Airways Homes II was launched three weeks ago, it has taken in well over £2 million, much of it spill-over from the first issue. Between them, the issues have raised more than £6.5 million — a fifth of the money raised by all the Assured Tenancies in the 1989-90 tax year.

"Some people say the issue is only successful because it has a big name — British Airways — behind it," said Mr Rowe, a director of the BES Housing Partnership. "But the prospectus is clear and easy to read, and investors have a sound exit route after five years."

The Airways Housing Trust, which is managing the properties, has said it intends to buy back shares from any investors who would like to sell at that time. By then, there is also every chance that the company will have floated on the Stock Exchange, giving investors an easy exit route.

"There may be as many as nine Airways companies by then, making it quite big enough for a listing," said Mr Rowe. "New issues will follow as long as there is a demand from investors."

Mr Rowe, who is a consul-



"It's the quality of the company that counts": Steven Rowe

tant to Airways Homes, warned anyone thinking of a BES to look at the quality of management rather than just the tax savings. "They should see saving tax as an added bonus, but it's the quality of the company that counts."

Surprisingly few of the 1,350 original Airways investors have anything to do with flying. They include accountants, solicitors and other professionals, in their forties and fifties and "reasonably affluent".

British Airways has 32,000 employees based near Heathrow, and has the right to nominate them as tenants for any homes bought by Airways

**We'd rather not talk about 1983.**

We'd rather not talk about 1983, nor would we wish to talk about any other year in isolation, even those in which we came first.

That is because coming top one year, as many financial experts say, is not so important as consistency of performance.

It's The Equitable Life's track record of performance that we wish to talk about.

Since 1974 Planned Savings magazine has published annual surveys of money paid out by regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans over 10, 15 and 20 year terms.

Out of the 29 tables published, The Equitable Life has come top in 14 and second in 7 more.

In fact, we have not been lower than third in 23 tables and never out of the top ten.

No other company comes close to our record of achievement.

Nor should you think that there is little difference in the investment returns of these companies.

For example, if you had retired on 1.4.89 aged 65 you would have been 48% better off with an Equitable 20 year regular contribution with-profits plan compared with the worst performer.\*

1977	1st	1987	1st
1978	1st	1988	1st
1979	2nd	1989	3rd
1980	1st		
1981	2nd		
1982	3rd		
1983	4th		
1984	2nd		
1985	1st		
1986	1st		

## PERSONAL PENSION PLANS PAST PERFORMANCE

The honours board above shows The Equitable's position in surveys of actual results for 20 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans carried out by Planned Savings magazine 1977-1982.

What is responsible for this unrivalled track record?

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Another Equitable feature is that we spend a smaller proportion of your money on running the business than any of our rivals. In a survey of expenses carried out by Money Management magazine in November 1989, The Equitable Life had the lowest ratio of expenses to premium income of all the companies surveyed.



## And, as a mutual society, The Equitable Life has no shareholders to nibble away at the profits. The profits belong entirely to the with-profits policyholders.

You can be forgiven, therefore, for thinking that all of those factors give us an unfair advantage over our competitors and that little else is required. There is, however, one other element to be mentioned, our expert investment team.

Now managing funds in excess of £5 billion, our investment managers' track

record is amply demonstrated by the honours board illustrated here.

However, you must never forget that past performance does not guarantee future performance.

Our track record of skilful investment, combined with careful management and professional administration, makes an impressive argument for choosing The Equitable Life.

Not that we are content to rest on our laurels.

We know as well as anyone that past performance is no guarantee of future success.

That can only be achieved by continued hard work and application of the principles which have served us so well over the years.

In that way, we'll make sure the years to come are worth talking about.

For more information by post and by telephone, write to The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR, or call us direct on 0296 26226.

\*Planned Savings Survey - July 1989



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## FAMILY MONEY

George Leicester explains why managed currency funds may be staging a comeback

# How to cut the cost of that expensive holiday in Spain



GED.

Anyone who has been in Spain recently, will appreciate how much currency movements hurt. The Spanish peseta is now part of the European Monetary System so is linked to the mark. Since the pound has been badly down against the mark, tourists suddenly find Spain is not a cheap place. Yet turning the tables on this looks difficult. The currency casino appears to be highly speculative, best left alone. And yet a holiday in Europe shows how quickly falls in sterling eat away at savings. This is why managed currency funds may be staging a comeback.

The managers take the cash and invest it in foreign currency deposits. The aim is to juggle the differing interest rates against their view of which currencies are due to go down or up against sterling.

The idea is a good one, yet these funds have been slow to take off, partly because many people remain unsure of how they work. They are also based offshore, usually in the Channel Islands. This alone puts some savers off, even when the fund is managed by a household name in the investment business.

In recent years, managed currency funds have been in the doldrums. In the year to June 1, 1989, for example, the average fund made only 13 per cent on your money. Why?

Because sterling had combined stability with high interest rates, so it was impossible for Britons to make money by betting on the mark or the dollar. Mr William MacDougall, of Hill

Mahon, the fund group, He launched his fund in 1980, soon after exchange controls were scrapped.

He recalls: "I always thought that everyone had a secret desire to have some cash out of sterling simply because it had been forbidden for so long."

He thinks the pound is likely to fall to DM2.40 by the end of the year - a devaluation of about 12 per cent. This is, he says, because "the economic cycle is now the political cycle and, as the run-up to an election approaches, it will become attractive to let

sterling slide a bit." So, throw in the interest on your money and bailing out of sterling could mean a return of approaching 20 per cent.

Unfortunately, professional currency management costs money. Guinness fund charges 4 per cent up front, while Hill Samuel charges 5 per cent. There is also an annual charge as well - usually about 0.75 per cent.

This means that it is not really worth using currency funds for short-term cash. Investors need to be thinking of leaving it there for two years or so. Currency funds

will appeal mainly to investors who are scared of stock markets and want to do better than leaving their cash in the bank.

Even though stock markets are on the up, many people have stayed on the sideline, fearful of another mini-crash, as happened last October.

Currencies do not behave that way, which means currency funds can be a haven of stability in uncertain markets.

Mr MacDougall says: "You cannot have a bear market in currencies, because, as one currency goes down, another must be going up."

## The Equitable Life

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

PPKA

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THE INVESTMENT HOME

## Have a care when contracting out

A new drive is under way to encourage the millions of people still in the State pension scheme to contract out before April 3.

While the decision makes sense for many they need to be very careful in their choice of provider. Charges on personal pensions vary widely, and can make "going private" seem far less attractive.

Whilst every plan carries an upfront charge and an annual management fee, it is the extra charges on top which can make all the difference. Once some companies have added a

setting up charge and slapped on an extra monthly fee, the amount of money invested on your behalf can sometimes fall dramatically.

In the best cases nearly 95 per cent of the money channelled into a personal pension by the Government would be invested. In others, the amount could fall to nearer 70 per cent - greatly reducing the chance of attractive returns.

Taking two cases, NPI and GRE each charge 5 per cent upfront along with a 0.75 per cent annual fee on its rebate only personal pensions. But

once GRE has added a £140 "setting up charge" along with a monthly fee of 24p the amount of rebate invested falls dramatically.

On a rebate of £1,241 - the amount due for 1989/90 on a salary of £16,900 - £210 would be taken in charges by GRE, against only £71.36 on NPI's policy.

On a rebate of £602, due on a salary of £9,350, only 71.25 per cent would be invested by GRE against 94.25 per cent by NPI. GRE would charge £17.3, while NPI would charge only £34.60. Taking performance

over the last five years, £1,241 invested with NPI would have grown to £2,418. With GRE it would have reached £1,602. A rebate of £602 would have doubled with NPI, but reached only £650 with GRE.

Top players include Royal, NPI, Scottish Equitable, Scottish Amicable and Eagle Star, according to NPI. An investment of £600 with Royal over 30 years may produce a return of nearly £105,500, against £96,000 for one of the worst performers.

Jon Ashworth

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## Beware the pension losses in switching employment

A telephone call comes with an offer of an executive job. The salary is nearly 40 per cent more than present. But beware. It might be better to bid goodbye to that attractive salary.

Consider the present company pension scheme. Is it more valuable than the package on offer? On pre-1989 company pension schemes, the only restrictions on tax relief for pension contributions were age-related. As an example, between 36 and 45 years, tax relief could be obtained on pension contributions at 17.5 per cent (now 20 per cent) of earnings, however high.

New company pension schemes have an earnings limit of £60,000. However large those sums may now seem, 20 to 30 years' inflation soon alters that picture. And the £60,000 "cap" is linked to prices, not average earnings. The latter invariably outstrip the former.

Cay & Partners, the actuaries, shows that an employee aged 35 with earnings increasing by 3 per cent a year more than prices, needs £24,700 per annum at recruitment to equal £60,000 (in today's prices), on retirement at 65. At recruitment ages 45 and 55, the figures are £33,200 and £44,600 respectively. Large numbers of people could be caught by these new limits.

Consider also the current pension benefits. Do they stay where they are, or are they transferred to the new company scheme or to a personal pension? The decisions affect not only the contributor's benefits but also those of the spouse, for example the widow's pension.

Part of the higher salary offered might be invested to compensate for pension "loss" but, unlike pension contributions, it is taxable at the highest rate. A PEP could be a good solution.

If the company already operates an "approved" scheme, it might set up an unapproved one for an individual. Though tax has to be paid on the employer's contributions and any the employee makes, the

whole amount can be taken at retirement as tax-free cash. Part could then buy an annuity: a more tax-efficient route than taking part pension, part cash, for some of the annuity will be treated as (untaxed) return of capital.

Unapproved unfunded pension schemes, common in the US and West Germany, are cheaper for the employer to run, but the benefits depend on the company's growth. The tax is on lump sums or pensions paid out not on the employer's contributions.

The present company may also have an approved executive share option scheme allowing shares to be bought in the company at the market price. Check the rules. Usually the option cannot be exercised for three years. If the shares are sold before tax will have to be paid, based on the market price at the date of sale. After three years, profits on sales are subject to gains tax; better this than letting the option lapse.

Jennie Hawthorne

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Nationwide Anglia Fund Management Ltd announce their Fourth Rented Housing Business Expansion Scheme Fund.

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All investments into the Fund must be received by 5pm on the 5th April 1990. In the event of the Fund being heavily subscribed, Nationwide Anglia Fund Management Ltd can bring this closing date forward.

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Remember, investments in unquoted companies carry higher risks than investments in quoted companies. We therefore recommend that investors seek expert advice from an Independent Financial Adviser before investing.

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## FAMILY MONEY

# Plan if you will but watch the clauses

Sara McConnell  
on repayment  
protection  
and the need  
to cover small  
print with care

The latest rise in interest rates will make lenders keener than ever to sell borrowers mortgage repayment protection with their mortgage. A plan covers payments for up to two years in the event of long-term illness or redundancy.

These plans should not be confused with term assurance, which pays off the whole mortgage in the event of death, or permanent health insurance, which pays out an income to those with a long-term illness but does not specifically cover mortgage repayments.

But scrutinize the small print before starting to pay the monthly premiums, as most plans will have a long list of exclusion clauses. Some of these may make a plan an unnecessary expense, particularly for those stretched to the limit with high payments.

All plans offered by societies, banks and specialist lenders impose a waiting period, not paying out for the first 30, 60 or even 90 days after the policyholder has put in a claim. So if you are ill for a day less than the waiting period in most cases you receive no payment.

But lenders claim that most borrowers would have some form of sickness benefit or a lump sum, if they had been made redundant, to cover them over the waiting period.

But those without savings or an understanding employer



prepared to pay sickness benefit or redundancy money must rely on an understanding lender. Some will allow borrowers to spread the first two or three monthly payments, after a claim is made, over the rest of the year.

"With our disability and redundancy scheme there is an eight-week waiting time but we can put those first two payments into limbo and the borrower can pay off that interest later. We would look at each case individually," said Nationwide's Nation.

Insuring against such frequent occurrences as redundancy and illness is a high risk for underwriters which explains why this sort of cover is expensive.

But if plans were not hedged round with exclusions the cost would be even higher. Monthly premiums are normally about £4 per £100 of monthly mortgage repayment, which may or may not include the monthly endowment premium.

After making a claim and allowing for the waiting

period, the mortgage would be paid for up to two years, depending on policy terms.

The charges and conditions will vary. The Mortgage Corporation charges 5 per cent of the monthly payment being covered, and the borrower decides whether to include the endowment in this amount.

The Skipton has two plans, one covering disability and redundancy and one covering sickness and accident. Insuring against redundancy costs £24.80 per £100 of monthly payment while sickness costs £4 per £100.

But an extra £20 a month for covering a £500 monthly mortgage bill at £4 per £100 is often too much for some buyers and only about one in 10 takes out the cover.

"The cover's major selling point is peace of mind," said Mrs Caroline Blackman-Mack, marketing manager of John Charcol, the independent mortgage adviser.

Please remember, that the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Also, past performance

## Rolling-up can spell trouble

By Mike Goodman

As mortgage rates soar towards record levels, many borrowers may find themselves taking a closer look at schemes which defer interest or fix the rate for a year or more. For others, a re-mortgage is the only solution.

Current deals include an 11.49 per cent "stabilized payment rate" loan from National Home Loans — a response to a similar product offered from the Mortgage Corporation which offers a 12.5 per cent "payment rate."

While the borrower pays this lower rate, the lender adds on interest to the loan at its current variable rate. As it is now 15.75 per cent, the "deferred interest" element swells the outstanding debt.

Unless the variable rate falls in the medium term, the debt continues to rise. Only if it

falls below the payment rate, will the borrower be able to clear this extra debt.

NHL, the Mortgage Corporation, the Bank of Ireland and other lenders who offer this stabilise therefore put a limit on this "rolled-up debt" and try to fix the payment rate at about the long-term mortgage rate of 12 per cent, so the rolled-up debt will simply rise and fall over the long run.

The Market Harborough Building Society has launched a "Safe Haven" loan where the payment rate starts at 4 per cent below the current interest rate and the actual monthly repayments are increased 5 per cent a year for the term of the mortgage.

Many advisers dislike these deferred-interest loans as they could store up trouble in the future for borrowers. The sim-

### LETTERS

## Higher interest does not boost savings

From Mrs Joan Cannon

Sir: Surely it is crazy of the Abbey National to give as the reason for a further increase in mortgage rates the low level of savings being deposited, when the low level is due largely to increased

mortgage rates, and Christmas?

Your correspondent Mr Saunders (Business Letters, February 13) asks how the extra cash can be found by the low-paid. How indeed? Savings are the first thing to go.

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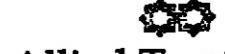
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<sup>t</sup> 50p/£100 withdrawn, minimum £10 per withdrawal.



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It would be interesting to know the average of savings held at any high street branch. I suspect that the majority belong to minimal savers like me. I do not feel persuaded to save more by the promise of a little bit more interest, and if, as one suspects, young home-buyers are being hooked to meet shareholders' dividends, it is unnecessary and despicable. I do propose moving my savings from the Abbey National to any building society which does not intend to raise mortgage rates and promise to read unsolicited mail.

Yours sincerely,  
JOAN CANNON,  
12 Collier Way,  
Stapleford,  
Cambridge.

### Tax anomaly

From Mr Brian Whittingham, Sir. May I draw attention to an anomaly which can impinge unfairly on the recently bereaved?

Equity holdings are valued for Inheritance Tax purposes as at the date of death, yet those sold months later in order to discharge liability to the Inland Revenue may have become worth considerably less (to the detriment of the Estate) or more (to the disadvantage of the State).

Bearing in mind that in the course of 12 months the price of an individual share can fluctuate by a pound or more, would it not be more equitable for Inheritance Tax to be levied on an established average price over a period of at least six and possibly 12 months?

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN WHITTINGHAM,  
8 Alcald Close,  
Horsham,  
West Sussex.

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TT 20/02/90

## FAMILY MONEY

Heartache awaits innocents seeking a share in character-merchandising, as Melinda Wittstock explains

# Risks of cinema's spin-offs goldmine

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*Batman*, one of the best-hyped Hollywood films of all time, has become one of the biggest money-spinners in cinema history - but not just because it has grossed more than \$250 million at the US box office and broken all video sales records around the world.

It is the sale of toys, clothing, mugs, badges, posters and other paraphernalia accompanying the hyping of any major Hollywood production that more often than not nets the big bucks, as shown by Warner Brothers' *Batman*, Paramount's *Indiana Jones* and Columbia's *Ghostbusters*, as well as Walt Disney's *Oliver & Company*.

Those in the merchandising industry believe that Warner Brothers, for example, will probably make far more out of royalties from the sale of *Batman* goods than it will from the film.

However, those who claim our for a slice of the cake, seeking to produce merchandise on licence from the company owning the rights to a cartoon character or a logo, do not always get a fair deal.

Efforts to win coveted licences sometimes result in little more than a lot of heartache, even after the ink has dried on a bona fide licensing agreement. Dreams of profit can fast turn into the reality of loss.

"Most licensees end up with just crumbs off the rich man's table," says Mr John Withers, a licensing agent who has been in the business for 25 years.

Licenses often have to pay anything between £1,000 and £100,000 in advance for a licence before granting 8 to 10 per cent of the take to the licensor in royalties.

One of the biggest night-

mares for a licensee is finding that there is no demand for a product after completing a big manufacturing run on the advice of a licensor who has promised a major advertising campaign to coincide with the product launch.

"Licensees will always tell you that you've got the best thing since sliced bread," Mr Withers says.

"That way, a lot of people end up committing themselves to massive advance payments for their licences before finding they cannot meet the unrealistic projections of the licensor."

Mr Withers, whose licensing agency, JWE, has moved into more lucrative corporate work after years of character licensing work with both Warner and Disney, says:

"Unless you're very experienced in the industry, you shouldn't believe a mighty thing you're told."

"All you're doing when you sign a licence is buying a promise; if that promise is hot air, so is the value of your licence."

If licensors drag their heels with the cheque, or take too long to give a design their approval, licensees can be left with little time to meet manufacturing deadlines or fulfill orders, according to Mr Withers.

He said: "Say I have the rights to Mickey Mouse and I've given you a licence to product Mickey Mouse T-

shirts. Maybe I keep turning down your artwork because I don't like your face."

Sometimes, Mr Withers says, licensors or licensing agents fail to cash the cheque paid by a new licensee as advance payment for a licence, so that "they can renege on the deal if someone else comes along later with a higher offer."

"You've paid an advance fee and put a lot of time and effort arranging to sell your product to major retail outlets, but you can't go ahead because your artwork has not been given final approval."

"You've missed your mar-

ket, you face a difficult decision of whether or not to give up the licence or mean while you could have been selling something else."

Licensees seldom have too much warning before the hype surrounding a major film, a new television series or even a rock concert begins. Because the kingpins of the character-licensing industry are based in the US, it often becomes a race against time trying to get the necessary approval so as not to miss the market.

The problem has been observed by Mr Christopher Crouch, of Yaffa, the UK licensing agent for Hearst's King Features Syndicate, which owns the rights to Popeye and Betty Boop.

He said: "There is a very short lead time between the announcement of a film and the beginning of the advertising campaign that creates the market for a product. Licensees for the films *Batman*, *Jaws*, *ET: The Extra Terres-*

*trial* and *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* all suffered from this."

Licenses and licensees alike agree that theirs is no business for an amateur.

They say that anyone thinking of getting involved in the industry should first take the advice of a good lawyer specializing in intellectual property rights. Nor should they put a lot of time or money into a specific character or design without first doing a lot of market research.

"The ones who do well have done a tremendous amount of research before deciding which characters to use and what products they are best suited to," Ms Ash says.

Under no circumstances should licensees ever go into production without a licence, says Mr Mike Lake, the founder of a comic book store, Forbidden Planet, which is a major licensee for Batman and Superman comics.

"It's insane not to sign a formal contract before going into manufacturing unless you've dealt with a licensor many times before," he said.

Mr Withers says: "Anybody taking a licence or a promise or a handshake is a bad businessman. But even if your licensing agreement is signed, it means nothing until the cheque is cashed."

Even then it is a risky business, with industry representatives expecting more casualties this year as would-be licensees scramble to produce Tom and Jerry merchandise to coincide with the US characters' 50th birthday and to join the queue at Walt Disney for licences in the lead-up to the opening of Euro Disneyland at Marne La Vallee, France.

Diabetics are  
insurers' load



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## FAMILY MONEY

# Digging around for bargains among Britain's ancient sites

Even a little bit of history suffers from the age of inflation.

Suitably tipped, Conal Gregory takes us on a guided tour

Anyone planning a visit to Britain's historic sites this Spring may pay a lot more for the privilege. Yet careful planning can take a lot of the sting out of the latest price increases. By shopping around it should be possible to enjoy a full 1990 programme and even longer than last year's prices.

The National Trust covers 297 sites in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, of which 190 are houses and castles.

Apart from free entry to its own sites, membership brings complementary admission to affiliated sites even in Canada and New Zealand, as well as its magazine three times a year.

Individual subscription is £19 but another person at the same address may join for just £10, and the under-23 rate is only £7.50.

Life membership has recently risen from £350 to £425. Retired people can join for £12.50 or, as a couple, for £20.50 with a lower life rate of £275 and £350 respectively.

Better value is provided by joining The National Trust for Scotland although it has only 197,000 members to The National Trust's 1.8 million. The annual rate is only £15 and joint one £24.50 with the elderly rates £7.50 single and £12.25 OAP couple.



Craigievar Castle: one of the many fine properties in care of the National Trust for Scotland

Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man all have their own schemes, although The National Trust for Jersey is restricted to residents. The annual rate is £5 for adults and just £2 for those under 16. Its just at Quetivel is one of over 120 properties under their care which receives keen attention in the summer.

The National Trust of Guernsey costs only £6 for membership and £10 joint with £4 per child. The life rate is £100. Apart from Guernsey's Folk Museum, which normally costs £1.50 for entry

and 80p per child, there is, for island residents, complementary admission elsewhere.

The Friends of the Manx National Trust charges £3.50 membership, whether an adult or child but a husband and wife can have joint membership for £5.

The life rate is only £35 for an individual or £50 for a married couple. The Isle of Man has three museums, charming Laxey Wheel, two castles and a Viking boat at Peel. Membership of the Historic Houses Association at reduced to £14 if you are

historic Scotland", have the price edge over their opposite numbers.

The annual subscription is £10 and joint rate £15, and an elderly person may join for £5. A retired couple for £7.50. The family rate of £15 covers all youth up to 16 years although there is a separate rate of £5 to cover up to 21 years.

Cadw, meaning "to keep" or "to preserve" is the marketing arm of Welsh Historic Monuments. It issues a newsletter to members three times a year and looks after 127 properties. The individual annual rate is £10 but there is no joint rate.

The OAP level is £8 while the £20 family membership covers a couple and up to three children under 16 years. There is a youngster rate of £8 to student age and life membership of £60 per individual and £200 joint.

English Heritage plans to raise its entry rates on April 1. Currently its subscriptions are £12.50 per individual and £22.50 for joint with a pensioner charged £9 and a retired couple £16 at the same address. The family rate of £25 covers all young persons under 21.

The life rate of £250 single and £325 joint with English Heritage does permit one guest admission in addition to the member, unlike the scheme in Scotland.

Similarly, the joint annual subscription of £25.50 is cut to £20.50 if a member of one of these three bodies. The Association has 290 properties with such attractive venues as Beaulieu, Blenheim, Castle Howard, Hever Castle and Bowood House, Wiltshire. The Scottish Historic Buildings and Monuments of the Scottish Development Department, marketed as "His-

toric Scotland", have the price edge over their opposite numbers.

There is a pensioner life rate of £190 for those over 60 years and £240 for a retired couple.

However, they can take up to four children under 16 years in to sites like Stonehenge, Dover Castle and Rievaulx Abbey, which should appeal to many a grandparent.

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## Diabetics are penalized by insurers' loaded premiums

Diabetic sufferers often face a difficult time when it comes to arranging motor insurance. Many insurers charge higher premiums to make up for the extra risk, while some will not even consider quotations, writes Jon Ashworth.

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premium for more severe sufferers, except for the most serious cases," said a spokesman.

The British Diabetics Association said it was pressuring the insurance companies to give diabetics a better deal.

"We are liaising closely with the insurers in the hope that they will take a new approach," said a spokesman.

"A recent report showed the accident rate among diabetic drivers was no higher than average. But it's quite common for sufferers to have their premiums loaded."

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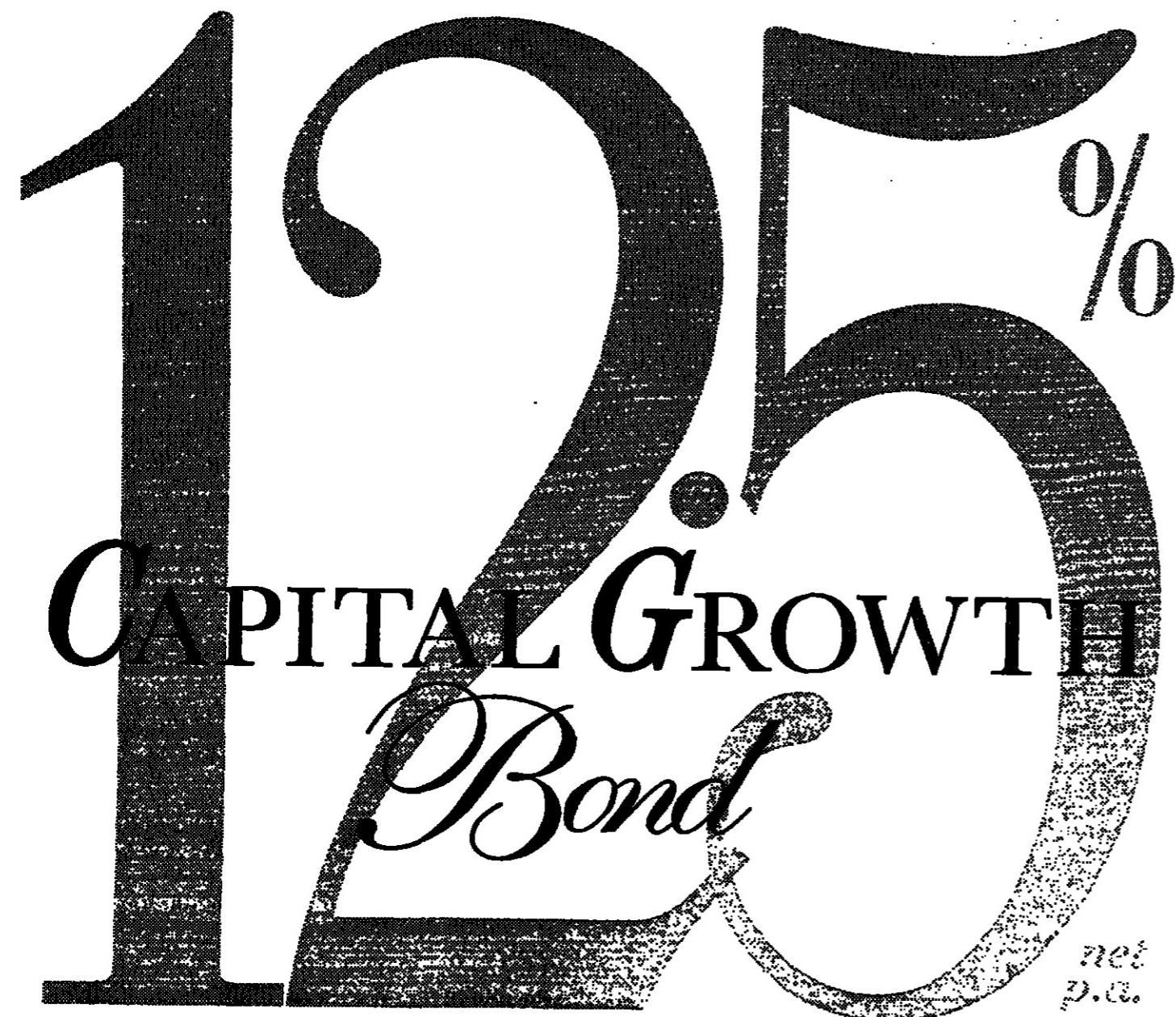
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## FAMILY MONEY

# Computer matching takes pain out of property deals

Moving costs are now being cut by swap schemes. Tim Cockerell looks at a way past estate agents, property chains and stamp duty



PETER TREVOR Clients pay a £30 registration fee and, if a sale is successful, 0.25 per cent of the sale price.

They must supply full details of their sale property and of the home they require; house-type, age, size, location, price and special features are all taken into account.

Details are entered on the database and matched to the needs of a buyer. Once matched, the house sale goes through the normal channels.

CAPRA Property Exchange is an expansion of a Torquay relocation agency run by Paul and Angela Curd. Clients do not have to be on the relocation books and the couple are spreading their net well beyond the West Country.

One of the main attractions of exchanging houses is the absence of 1 per cent stamp duty - unless there is a cash difference of more than £30,000. Mortgages are transferred, and, where there is no price difference, no money changes hands. There are also no estate agents or property chains involved, because buyers and sellers do a direct swap.

Mr Curd said: "We try to keep costs as low as possible and charge no commission on successful exchanges."

CAPRA clients also supply property details and pay a basic £12.95 for inclusion in five editions of a fortnightly listing of properties available for exchange. Houses and descriptions are listed by reference number, which gives security until viewing requests come in.

Both services advise clients to have a realistic property valuation and survey carried out - instead of basing prices solely on an estate agent's recommendations or pushing them up because they have a new kitchen or a slightly larger garden than a neighbour.

Special features, rather than price factors, are selling points. And in today's depressed market, it is the sale and any corresponding savings on sale costs that count.

Rose Lee: still finding demand in the property market are special circumstances, it is unlikely that a house's increasing value will ultimately result in a move to something better."

Private speculators who bought three or four flats or houses during, or at the start of, the property boom are now finding the incoming rent for these no longer meets the mortgage repayments.

They have flooded the market, but many of their properties attract a new type of buyer - the one who is not mortgaged to the hilt and who will buy if it turns out to be cheaper than renting.

"Many buyers still believe in the property ladder," says Miss Lee. "But unless there

are special circumstances, it is unlikely that a house's increasing value will ultimately result in a move to something better."

"People need to move down market to cope with crippling mortgage repayments," she said. "Many are choosing to do so in conjunction with a job relocation move, with or without company help."

Another growth area that equates to the first-time bracket is that of people retiring and wanting to buy a new kitchen or a slightly larger garden than a neighbour.

Special features, rather than price factors, are selling points. And in today's depressed market, it is the sale and any corresponding savings on sale costs that count.

The Property Register, set up nine months ago, also deals with house-hunters living abroad who are either returning or looking for a UK base.

The words in quotes are those of building surveyor Professor Malcolm Hollis, a senior spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, who adds that lack of communication is "leading to problems."

Traditional courtesies like advance notice to neighbours are being dispensed with, while "most builders" have taken to working on the pre-emptive strike principle - quickly out, and worry about complaints later.

The words in quotes are those of building surveyor Professor Malcolm Hollis, a senior spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, who adds that lack of communication is "leading to problems."

A recent example was the household who awoke early one morning by an alarming series of structural vibrations; they were caused by a mechanical digger whose scoop was being used like a sledge-hammer to break up an old concrete driveway in an adjoining garden.

When she protested, the unsupervised young contract labourer continued his work more appropriately with a pneumatic drill. The woman's house drain, which ran directly under the drive, survived unscathed.

Other homeowners are less fortunate. Sometimes, the signs of damage - a fine crack in the wall plaster, subsidence where foundations have been disturbed - do not appear until months or years later.

There are several dozen such cases annually. Where

they result in compensation claims, the burden of proving the claimant's case rests with the complainant. "Quality of evidence" is crucial, Professor Hollis points out.

Outside the capital - where relevant rights and responsibilities are defined under the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939 - there is less control, and similarly less awareness about the protective value of a "schedule of condition."

No strict definition exists, but this essentially comprises an independent record of a building at a particular time.

More prevalent due to the growing need and customarily prepared by a qualified surveyor, this document can be produced to support a claim in or out of court, also to refute any counter-assertion about pre-existing damage or dilapidation.

Backed with black and white photographs it provides

very useful if not necessarily conclusive testimony.

Situations where a schedule can prove a prudent safeguard against a neighbour's denial of responsibility include work on a party wall (the likelihood of damage is greater where an extra load is imposed and the work is poorly done), roofs, drains, and exterior landscaping (tree removal, from clay soil especially, can lead to building settlement).

To have value as evidence, or as leverage in negotiating remedial measures, a schedule must be prepared before the work starts.

Damage tends to occur close to where work is done, so instruct your surveyor in writing as to likely susceptible areas.

His charge will probably not be less than £50. But you will be buying peace of mind at the very least.

Charles Kersley

## When neighbours are simply not meant for one another

When builders move in next door, neighbourliness may move out. Disputes over damage allegedly caused by conversion or other work in an adjacent property are not reducing as a new decade of the "selfish society" unfolds.

Traditional courtesies like advance notice to neighbours are being dispensed with, while "most builders" have taken to working on the pre-emptive strike principle - quickly out, and worry about complaints later.

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When she protested, the unsupervised young contract labourer continued his work more appropriately with a pneumatic drill. The woman's house drain, which ran directly under the drive, survived unscathed.

The society would not therefore regard a period of seven months between the date of death and registration of title as an unnecessary delay, the reply said.

But the logjam was cleared and the matter resolved within the next two weeks of him writing.

According to the Law Society of Northern Ireland, there can be several reasons to

explain a delay. Among them, the State has to be satisfied no taxes are due, with inquiries by the Inland Revenue being the most common reason.

The court has to be satisfied that it is the last will convened and that the person applying for a grant of probate is the correct person to whom the assets are due.

The larger and more complicated the estate, the longer it will take to effect a transfer - sometimes years. More often than not it is not a solicitor who causes delays, but inadequacies of the system.

The question is not just one of whether Mr McKittrick's solicitor took unreasonably long to transact the seemingly straightforward transfer during a difficult emotional time, but the amount of time which appears to be required to transact "straightforward" matters.

Philip Pangalos

Philip Pangalos

Jon Ashworth

Lakes Transw

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## FAMILY MONEY

Jon Ashworth traces the funding route of a new shopping centre

# Lakeside journeys from Transvaal to the Thames

Britain's newest shopping complex will open for business off the M25 motorway East of London, later this year.

Just north of the Dartford tunnel in Essex, the £300 million Thurrock Lakeside Shopping Centre will join Brent Cross, Milton Keynes, and Newcastle's Metro Centre as one of the Britain's premier shopping areas.

The development includes four department stores and 250 shops spread over two levels for a quarter of a mile with fountains, trees, and 9,000 car spaces.

Lakeside is more than just another shopping centre. It is part of a financial web spanning two continents and drawing together some of the world's most influential business minds.

It begins with Capital & Counties, the British property company specializing in shopping schemes and ends in Johannesburg with Mr Donald Gordon, who as chairman of Liberty Life, the South African insurer, has left a lasting mark on British financial services.

The lynch-pin is Trans-Atlantic Holdings, a Luxembourg company formed in 1980 to invest in Britain. The association gives Liberty a window into British property and financial services.

When it is finished, Thurrock Lakeside will take its place at the centre of Liberty's international holdings. Mr John Abel, a director of Capital & Counties, said it had been in the planning stages since 1984. Three years of discussions with the local authority and County Council



Jewel in Liberty's property crown the Lakeside complex by the M25 at the north end of the Dartford Tunnel will transform old gravel pits with a 10-cinema complex and waterfront centre

were followed by a public inquiry in 1987. The scheme was approved, and construction began in September 1988.

Today, Lakeside is well on course for its October opening. At least 2,000 people are working on site, using a "fast track" building technique

around a theme lake. Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Debenhams and House of Fraser will display their wares beside many smaller retailers.

With high mortgage rates biting into family budgets, this may not seem the best time to launch a new shopping com-

plex. But with 11 million people – a fifth of the Britain's population – within an hour's drive, the developers feel it is a safe bet.

"This is the biggest project the company has done so far," said Mr Abel. "At 2 million sq ft, it is one of the largest in Britain Sandton."

## Exchange plans a £2.5m mart for unit trusts

A company named the Unit Trust Exchange takes to the road this week with the aim of raising £2.5 million for a screen-dealing service linking unit trust managers with sales outlets such as brokers, writes Barbara Ellis.

The Unit Trust Exchange considers that it will be able to halve current dealing costs for users of the system and make a profit for itself within two years.

Benefits for investors are less clearly defined, but should include better access to information and faster settlement if the banks agree to co-

operate. Despite its name, though, the Unit Trust Exchange will not have market-makers in unit trusts dealing in funds from a variety of groups.

Units will still have to be bought from or sold to the group which originates them.

"The Securities and Investments Board tried to push us in that (market-making) direction," said Mr Andrew Wrobel, a director of Financial Marketing Consulting Group, one of the Unit Trust Exchange's founding shareholders, "but frankly at the moment that would have been sui-

cidal." He explained that such a move would have alienated the management groups which already thought they were making fair prices.

However, Mr Wrobel felt that the Unit Trust Exchange would be edging towards market-making with its acceptance of "limit" orders, which allow investors to make a deal conditional on a specified price:

"Obviously it would affect the price if someone knew they could deal in £100,000 worth of units at a certain level," he said.

Mr Mark St Giles, the Unit Trust

Exchange chairman, who is currently also chairman of the Framlington group, says the Exchange could launch in the autumn if it signs up as few as three significant management groups and perhaps 30 brokers of the 50 or so who do the most business in unit trusts.

Estimates by the Unit Trust Association show that independent brokers account for between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of unit trust business, with 50 per cent coming from life companies and the rest from their direct sales forces.

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- Besres Development plc will specialise in acquiring and building on 'greenfield' sites in order to add potential development profit to other sources of gain.

- Besres Lakeland plc will invest in and around the Lake District. It will utilise, where possible, special permissions to acquire sites unavailable to 'outsiders' by renting to locally employed people for the first five years.

- Besres Campus plc plans to offer the unique strategy of selling back all property assets to the University of Lancaster after providing on-campus university accommodation for at least five years.

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#### • THE ROLE OF SLIMS

SLIMS sponsors the Scheme and acts as adviser to all the Besres Companies. Its BES business functions are:

- to advise the Besres Companies on all aspects of their business and the achievement of exit routes in five years time; and
- to package and offer the advisory and administrative services of the Sun Life Group to cut down costs to investors.

#### • THE EXPERIENCE FACTOR

Sun Life currently handles investments of over £8,000 million on behalf of more than 1,000,000 investors. Over £1,000 million is invested in an impressive property portfolio.

1. This Scheme involves investment in unquoted Companies which carry higher risk than investment in quoted Companies.
2. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) regulates the conduct of the investment business of SLIMS outlined in this advertisement.
3. Expert advice should be sought before investing in BES schemes.
4. Applications to subscribe will be accepted only on the terms and conditions set out in the Scheme Document.

**OPEN UNTIL 5TH APRIL**



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THE TIMES

# REVIEW

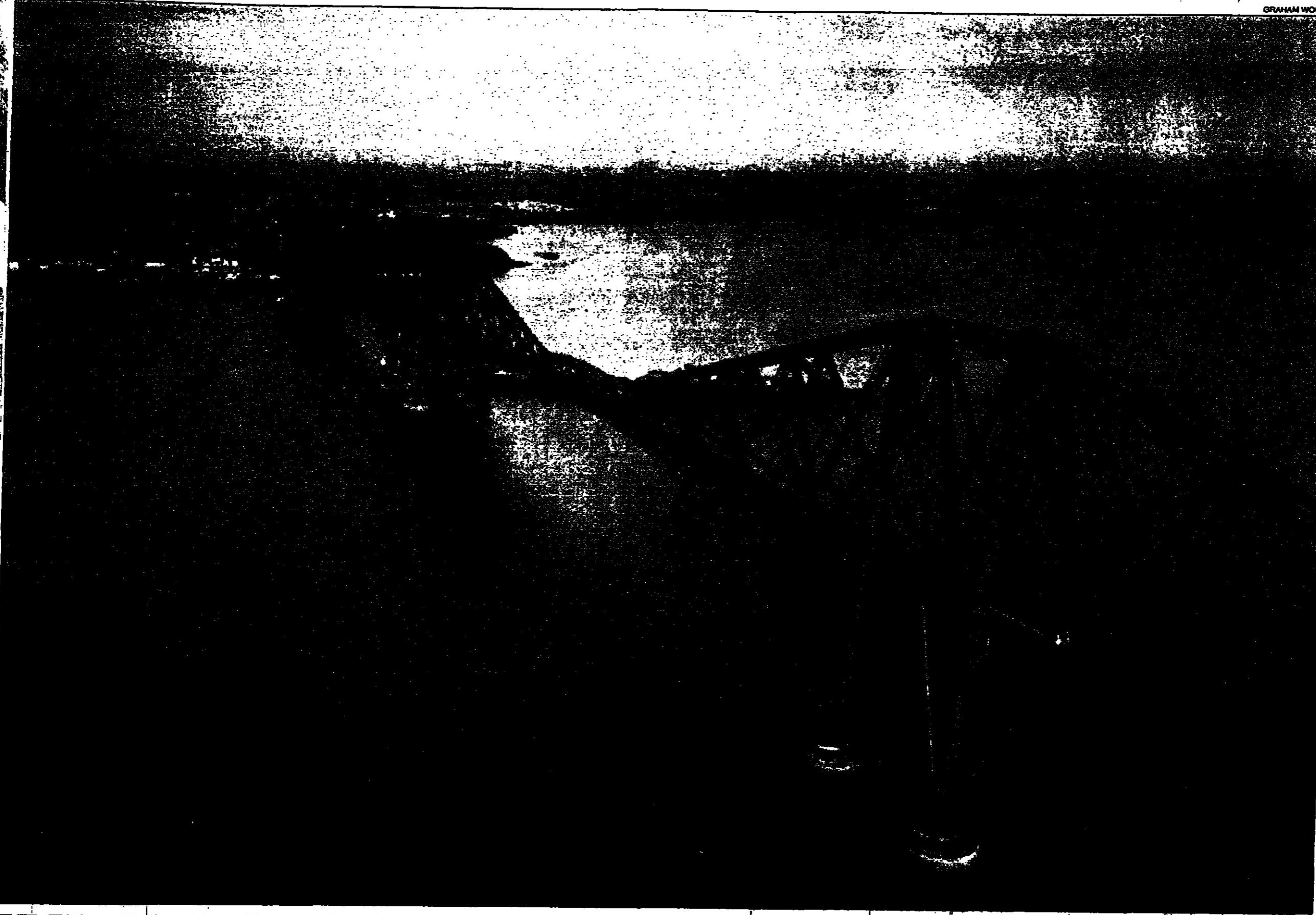
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SECTION 3

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

## Colossus that spans a century

GRAHAM WOOD



**For 100 years the mighty Forth Bridge has stood as a symbol of strength and durability. Alan Hamilton pays a birthday tribute to the engineering wonder of the Victorian age that has weathered the Scottish storms**

William Morris, champion of the arty-crafty, loathed the Forth Bridge. "It is the supremest specimen of all ugliness," he declared. Many decades later, Kenneth Clark thought it "an anachronism, a sort of prehistoric monster, a brontosaurus of technology". But the burning concern of the men who built one of the wonders of the railway age was to make pretty damned sure that it didn't fall down.

A century after a previous Prince of Wales opened it in a howling Scots gale on March 4, 1890, the Forth Bridge stands as the greatest visible testament to Britain's era of steam, steel and granite confidence. So far from falling down, it daily bears 1,500-ton coal trains like Atlas shouldering a tennis ball, and has breasted this winter's hurricanes without so much as a shudder. It gazes in disdain as its slender road-bridge neighbour suffers the indignity of having the menders in after only 26 years of pounding by more and bigger lorries than its designers ever expected.

Its potent image of strength, employed over the years to advertise the reliability of everything from shortbread to women's tights, the Forth Bridge is the ultimate belt-and-braces design against the fierce elements of eastern Scotland. It had to be, for when the contract to build it was awarded, the normally indomitable Victorian engineering pro-

fession was suffering a temporary loss of public faith, much as the builders of high-rise flats did after the collapse of Roman Point.

In the summer of 1879, Sir Thomas Bouch had been the hero of the hour, newly knighted by Queen Victoria. Commissioned by the east coast railway companies to steal a march on their inland rivals by providing a shorter, direct route to the northern cities of Dundee and Aberdeen, and thereby do away with ferries which were distinctly user-hostile, particularly on wild winter nights, Bouch had spanned the Tay with the world's longest rail bridge, and was already at work conquering the other great gash on the eastern seaboard, the Forth.

But on the night of December 28 the same year, the wind came howling down from Perthshire at hurricane force 11 and gusting, to carry away the Tay Bridge, the evening train from Edinburgh, and 75 lives. It had been the victim of inadequate design, faulty

materials and atrocious workmanship, all of which added up to a cavalier disregard for the power of the elements. With only one pier built, Bouch's contract to bridge the Forth was summarily cancelled; he died soon afterwards, broken in heart and mind.

What was eventually built is one of the most profoundly visible man-made objects anywhere. Although advancing techniques were making possible the construction of ever-longer and bigger suspension bridges, as demonstrated by the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1873, Baker opted instead for the cantilever principle, discovered and employed in the Far East centuries before.

The true ancestor of the Forth Bridge is a little wooden structure built in 1670 across a Himalayan gorge in northern India. When he arranged the photograph on this page to demonstrate the principle, Baker ensured that the man in the middle was a Japanese, in recognition of his debt to the East.

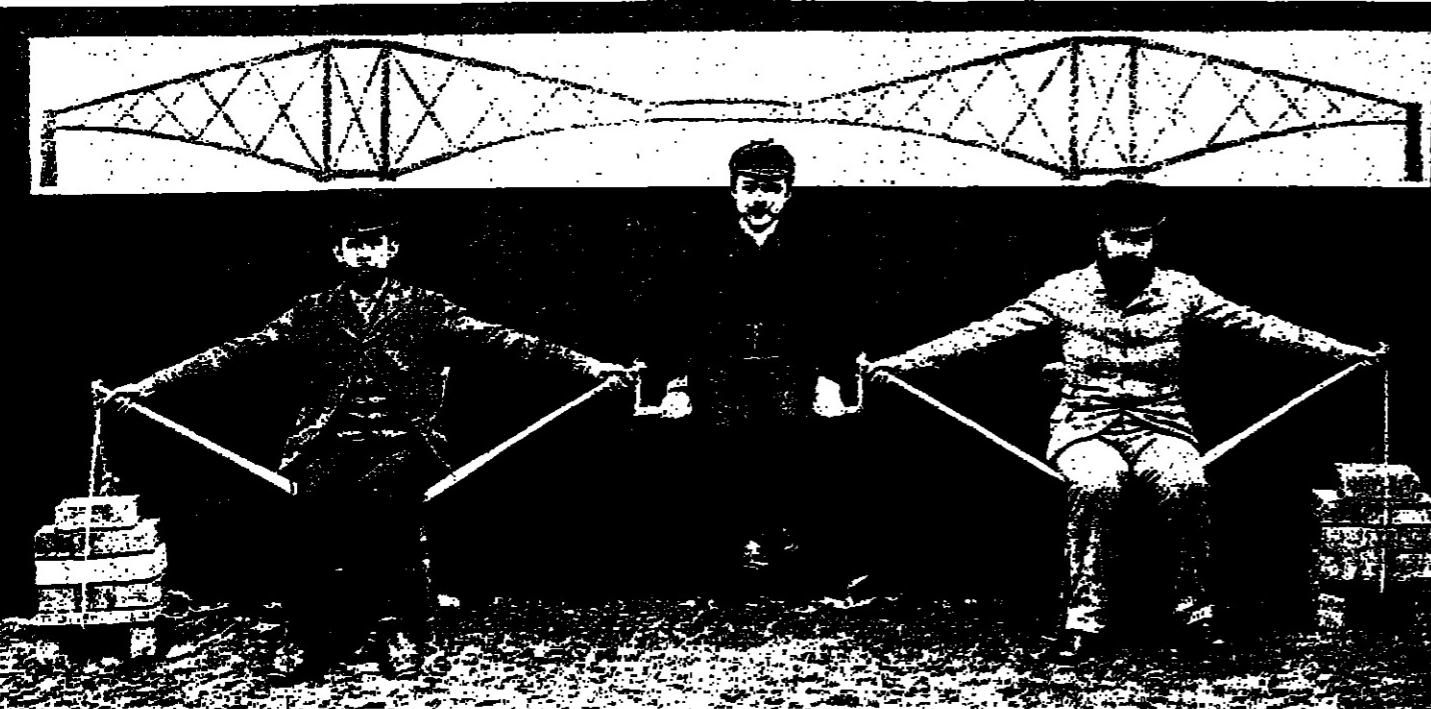
The bridge was the first major structure in the world to be built of steel. Baker and Fowler rejected iron as inconsistent and unreliable, and chose the new material: recent perfection of the Siemens open-hearth smelting process meant that steel had suddenly become plentiful, and its quality consistent. None the less, at the same time across the Channel, Monsieur Eiffel was erecting his massive folly in wrought iron.

Baker was unimpressed. "The Eiffel Tower is a foolish piece of work, ugly, ill-proportioned and of no real use to anyone," he said. "The Forth Bridge is a work of usefulness which has been stigmatized as very ugly, but it has the beauty and expressiveness of naked construction of a scientific stamp." The bridge was also far

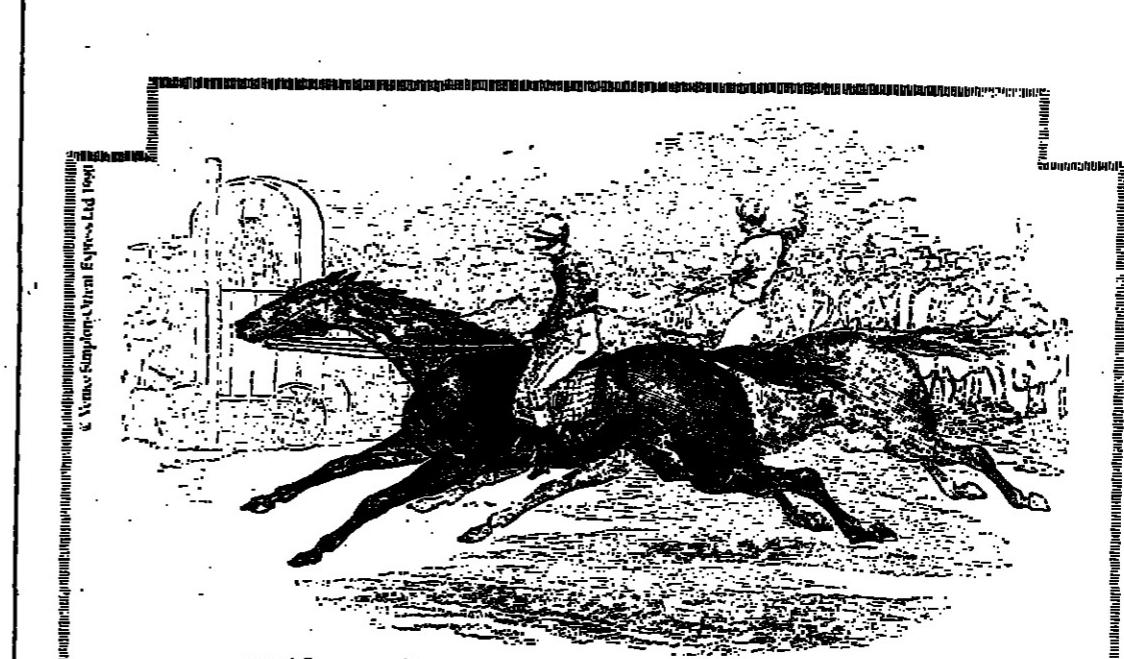
larger, equal to six of M Eiffel's towers laid end to end. Into the Forth Bridge went 54,000 tons of steel, held together by 6.5 million rivets. Not one ounce of the metal was employed in ornament; every last tube and girder was functional, and in that very fact lies its visual appeal. Baker also employed another innovation. All the

component parts held in tension he made conventional lattice girders, but all those in compression he made, for the first time on any major structure, tubular — the biggest of them 12ft in diameter riveted up from thick curved steel plates. The additional strength was obvious to him after trying to

*Continued overleaf*



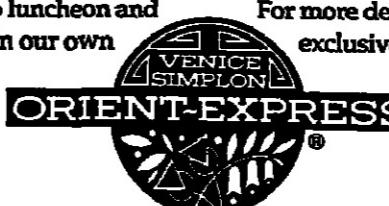
Benjamin Baker's demonstration of the cantilever principle. The Japanese man (centre) represents the engineer's debt to the East for the idea



### THE SPORT OF KINGS ON THE KING OF TRAINS.

What finer way can there be to enjoy the age old Sport of Kings than aboard the undisputed King of Trains, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. On Saturday 5th May 1990 we will be running an exclusive train to Newmarket for the 2000 Guineas. But you don't have to be an ardent enthusiast to enjoy this unforgettable day. From champagne breakfast during the journey to Newmarket, to luncheon and traditional afternoon tea in our own private marquee, you are pampered all the way.

Naturally all racecards and guides to form are included, not to mention complimentary drinks from the bar to help things along! After your final flutter the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is waiting to return you to London in style. A two course supper with champagne and fine wine turns the memorable day into an enchanted evening. The price for this unique day at Newmarket is £295. For more details of this and our other exclusive 'race day' offers contact your travel agent or telephone Reservations on 01-928 6000.



A Day Out of the Ordinary.

## THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



# Mercurial astrology

I think I celebrated my 59th birthday last Sunday. I hope it was the right day. My birth certificate says February 18 but a family Bible has the 19th. As I was the second son, no one can remember at precisely what time of which day or night I happened along. It makes it tough for astrologers.

However, the cast and crew of *Loose Ends* gave me a birthday card for the 18th and stuck on two horoscopes. Both are high on Mercury. One says he will "inject (me) with brilliant brainwaves, inspiring instant insights, imaginings and ideas". According to the other, Mercury gives me "the gift of the gab as well as imparting verbal expression to (my) ingenious mind and incredible notions... cerebrally (I'm) in a class of (my) own and way ahead of (my) time."

Let's stay with the birthday. I was lucky to celebrate it by launching a charity. The British Sports Trust has allied with Scotts of Mount Street and the champagne house of Krug in arranging three monthly banquets celebrating the best seasonal fish washed down with three sorts of bubbly. A £100-ticket gives you a chance of three draws. Winners get a dinner for seven guests; losers' money goes to the Sports Trust.

My onerous task was to summon some guinea-pigs for a test run. I chose my cast carefully. Elisabeth Welch is a champagne connoisseur and had a vintage named after her in the Fifties. Keith Waterhouse qualifies, if not as an expert, certainly as a conspicuous consumer — along with Jean Leyland, his flame-haired factotum, Victoria Mather and Reggie Tsiboe got in on looks and conversation. I had a slight problem with the Tom Contis, as Mr Conti has a seafood allergy and Mrs Conti doesn't drink alcohol.

Another high point for me was collecting £5 across the table from Waterhouse in settlement of a bet. We had lunched at *The Spectator* with Peter O'Toole, Michael Reddington and Jeffrey Bernard. Waterhouse, in a moment of uncharacteristic madness, bet me that the old *Brains Trust* had a studio audience. Have you heard of taking sweets from a baby? His principal evidence was a Richmal Crompton



(William) story. Imagine my surprise when Dominic Lawson, the next editor of the mag, joined in the bet for another £5. He can't have been born when the *Brains Trust* ceased upon the midnight. A quick call to my man in Deal produced chapter and verse.

According to Julian Huxley's memoirs, the *Brains Trust* started "in 1939 at the BBC's old place in Savoy Hill, with Professor Joad and Commander Campbell as guinea-pigs". For the first year the pro-

gramme was called *Any Questions?*

The revelation is that Campbell

was not a Commander and Joad was not a Professor. Campbell ("When I was in Patagonia . . .") was a ship's purser. The BBC granted him the title of Commander, much to the annoyance of the Admiralty. Joad ("It depends what you mean by . . .") was merely head of the department of philosophy at Birkbeck College, with no professional claim.

On April 2, 1942, Captain Evelyn Waugh, Royal Marines, a guest on the *Brains Trust*, found Campbell "vulgar, insincere, conceited", and Joad "goat-like, libidinous, garrulous". Bob Boothby, in *Recollections of a Rebel*, records that Joad, who was later to be arrested and fined for dodging train fares, told

him that "his favourite pastime was travelling on railway trains without a ticket".

We had a better train story at the same lunch in Doughty Street. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, on his first railway journey, was bowled over by the talent of the driver.

"Such a good steerer, we had. We approached a tunnel and I was terrified, but so great was his skill that he drove the engine straight at the centre of the aperture. He touched neither one side of it nor the other before we emerged."

I HAVE been saving this item until my prize-winners in the Christmas quiz. Joanne Aitken and her son, had enjoyed the play at the Apollo. They went on Saturday. Several correspondents advised me that, contrary to O'Toole's assertion, Richard Burton did not get a wartime Oxford rugby Blue. Colin Preec of Bury St Edmunds was up with him from April till September 1944 and, as he points out, it was "an excellent cricket season".

Tom Baxter-Wright checked the *Playfair Rugby Annual* for wartime Blues. No Burton, no Jenkins. However, later in 1947 Burton did deliberate: "Should he get back into

Oxford and try for a First and a rugby Blue?"

Baxter-Wright also queries my reference to a Steele-Bodger team in 1944. Before the Varsity match, Oxford usually played Major Stanley's XV. Mickey Steele-Bodger did not go to Cambridge until 1945. When he came down he decided that Cambridge needed a game like Stanley's — hence the Steele-Bodger XV. How illustrious was Burton's rugby-playing career?

THE DEATH last week of the redoubtable, charming Dame Peggy Shepherd struck a nostalgic note for me. When we piloted *TW3* in 1962 she was chairman of the Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee. She led a group of Tory ladies who Bernard Levin confronted on the programme. Five times one of them thundered at him: "Mr Macmillan has always satisfied me!" Another woman was strident on law and order: "Mr Levin, how would you like it if your daughter was up a dark lane late at night and nothing done about it?" Neither was Dame Peggy.

After the recording, Grace Wyndham Goldie gave the show her thumbs down. However, the Tory ladies made such a fuss at Central Office about the depth of depravity to which the pilot had sunk that a protest was lodged at the highest level of the BBC. More senior viewers monitored the experiment. Fortunately they found it vastly amusing and, thanks to Tory Central Office, we were booked for an initial 26 weeks.

WONDERFUL NEWS from Fleet Street. Whenever Robert Maxwell arrives at the *Mirror* building in his helicopter, the word goes round, "The ego has landed."

## SHERIDAN MORLEY

## If I were...

If I were Detta O'Cathain, administrator of the Barbican, I would be irritated that with all the cash furore over the Royal Shakespeare Company's cash crisis, precious little attention seems to have been paid to my problems. I will soon have two empty theatres.

We could, of course, form ourselves into London's fourth airport: we have more carpeted acres than Gatwick, are conveniently if impenetrably located for the City, and could probably land at least helicopters on the main stage if not Boeings, given that Drury Lane manages to land a helicopter six nights a week and twice on matinee days for *Miss Saigon*.

Alternatively, the Barbican could revert to its original architectural concept and become London's first cultural nuclear shelter: bookshops are already in place, as well as the longest bar in terms of footage and customer-delay in the whole of the City. In the event of a holocaust, kiosks on different levels selling CDs of Wagner's *Ring* and highlights from *A Clockwork Orange* would resolve the problem of what to do with personalized headsets while awaiting the inevitable.

Catering has always presented something of a



... Detta O'Cathain

problem, although travellers assure me our ham baps are every bit as good as those at Gatwick on an August Sunday afternoon, and the difference between those queuing for a cheap night-flight to Marbella and those queuing for *Nigel Kennedy Plays All Your Favourite Classics in 30 Seconds with Larry Adler* is precisely what has made us an arts centre unrivalled anywhere this side of Stanza.

We are also a housing estate, and any of the residents could use the main stage for community-association meetings about the poll tax, unavailability of cabs and closure of all local Tube stations at weekends when wet. Such issues could be debated under decent lighting, with an RSC director in charge.

**W**e are not a cultural Mecca: the acoustics and seating facilities, not to mention the staircase and lifts going in no required direction, have long indicated that the building's true purpose is as a combined intellectual ghetto and long-term security centre for artistic directors who have offended the State by demanding increased subsidies. Prolonged incarceration in Kafka's Barbican without visiting rights would cause them to think twice before yet again attacking the present administration on late-night BBC arts shows.

If all else fails, there is no reason why the main stage should not be flooded and frozen for the first City Olympics: having survived on perilously thin ice for several decades, the RSC might win through, and a *Torvill and Dean Macbeth* could see us into 1991.

## Brilliant new 200SX, Ferrari looks, Porsche pace'

Autocar & Motor



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JUDAN MORLEY  
Were...  
Della O'Cathain

## A CHILDHOOD: MICHAEL PALIN

# 'I got to shout at people in the Corps. It was useful material later'



**N**ot many years before she died Michael Palin's mother confided in him. He had been her idea, she said. She had engineered the whole thing. His father, not very well off and trying to keep up appearances, couldn't decide whether or not they should have a second child.

So his mother, already in her late thirties and quite certain of what she wanted, made the decision for him. "Whatever method of birth control my mother was using she didn't use on that particularly balmy night in 1942," he says. "And I was the result: the ultimate mother's story."

There were good reasons for his father's uncertainty. After a glittering start to his career, a doctor's son from Norfolk, Shrewsbury School, Cambridge, India and a society wedding to the daughter of the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, life had not gone right. The promised glittering career had never materialized.

By 1943 he was a middle-aged man living in a rented house (solid, stone-built, three storeys and detached but still rented) in a Sheffield suburb and working for a laundry paper manufacturer. Later he moved to be export manager for a steel works, but in all the years he was growing up Palin doesn't believe his father ever had a promotion.

Life was a struggle of slightly faded gentility and penny pinching. His father also suffered from a bad stammer. In the United States, where they have associations to demonstrate on behalf of these things, Palin was strongly criticized for mocking those with such an impediment when he played a stammering crook in the film *A Fish Called Wanda*.

The protesters were wrong, of course. It was a performance of affection and extremely accurate. Perhaps if his father had been able to laugh at himself a little bit more life would not have been such a frustration.

"I'm sure his speech must have had an effect on his career, because it could be quite serious. I always felt he never came anywhere near reaching his true potential. But then I think he should have been a church organist."

"He was a musical man, who loved church music and singing in the choir. He was a bell-ringer, too, second in command of a peal of 10 bells and once was on the radio on Christmas morning. I was very proud when I watched him. I always felt he was most at ease in church."

Gradually the picture emerges of a man doing his best for his family in the austere post-war Britain, respectable, middle-class,

it covered up most of the time with a sort of knitted antimacassar. He'd go through the *Radio Times* and circle the things he wanted to watch."

Watching television was a big production. "We'd turn the armchair around, then there would be the warm-up time, about a minute and a half, and he'd wait. And then, finally, the programme wouldn't be on. That always used to throw him. The previous programme had obviously overrun. 'What's this? This isn't the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, is it?' he'd say, when it palpably wasn't, probably someone showing their bottom on a nature programme. 'Mother, get the *Radio Times*.'

Radio was much more of a happy, shared family activity, particularly *Take It From Here*, when all the family would sit down together. Happy memories. But radio was changing, too.

*The Goon Show* drew a fine directly between parents and their children. Radio comedy in those days was much more inventive than anything appearing on television.

"Graham and I were very keen on scriptwriters for comedy series, like Galtion and Simpson and Barry Took. We thought we would be very funny scriptwriters but that seemed to be a world from which we would always be excluded."

A boyhood in the Fifties was to grow up in a time of change, and the old order which his parents' generation respected, not least his own father, was under attack.

"It was very exciting. I saw the Goons as companions of Elvis Presley. I'll never forget the first time I heard Elvis singing 'Heartbreak Hotel' on *Family Favourites*. My father got up and began fiddling with the radio. He thought it had gone out of time. Then I heard 'Heartbreak Hotel' again and realized that there was nothing wrong. It was supposed to sound like that."

In books he loved Richmal Crompton's *William*, particularly the length of time William could spend just staring at the point of becoming a colour sergeant in the Corps. "You get to shout at people. It was very useful material for later. He enjoyed reading (and writing), but there were few books in the house. His father would go to the library and only buy him a book at Christmas — *Tales of the Arabian Nights*, Keith Miller's autobiography and the *Eagle* annuals. Now he buys books all the time."

He saw the film *Around the World in Eighty Days*, but did not read the book. (His own book of that title, based on his recent television series, has been a best-seller.)

At 13 he followed his father to Shrewsbury. "What they did to you there was to make you feel



Michael Palin now and, left, as a boy. "I thought I would be a very funny scriptwriter but it seemed to be a world that would always exclude me"

Photograph by Graham Wood

rather special because you were at Shrewsbury, pumping it into you that you were among the country's elite. It stays with you for life. Grammar school boys — the term 'grammar school' was so derogatory — were so absolutely beneath you. That was the way they wanted you to think."

For a while he accepted this kind of propaganda, even to the point of becoming a colour sergeant in the Corps. "You get to shout at people. It was very useful material for later. He enjoyed reading (and writing), but there were few books in the house. His father would go to the library and only buy him a book at Christmas — *Tales of the Arabian Nights*, Keith Miller's autobiography and the *Eagle* annuals. Now he buys books all the time."

He saw the film *Around the World in Eighty Days*, but did not read the book. (His own book of that title, based on his recent television series, has been a best-seller.)

All the same, he remembers "moments which no child should have to go through. For instance, I was embarrassed that my parents had such a small car when they came to speech days. And it seems

to me terrible that any place should foster that kind of feeling. My parents just didn't have that sense of innate superiority that the successful parents had."

From Shrewsbury he intended to follow his father's footsteps to Cambridge, but on failing to get in turned instead to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he quickly fell in with another student, Terry Jones. Oxford was a completely new experience, where he met "a whole new kind of people — women, for a start".

Having been uprooted from Sheffield at the age of 13 he hardly knew any girls. "You'd perhaps meet them at parties, but never get to know them. You just wanted to have a few drinks and get your hand down their jumper. At Oxford there were these very intelligent girls whom you could talk to and from school."

Then, on his first day at Oxford, a friend happened to mention that he had a girlfriend at the Froebel Institute in Roehampton. Since this was where Helen was also now studying, the two girls came up together. "We saw each other most weekends after that."

He was reading history. His

father, knowing he liked writing, had imagined he might have a career in advertising, but going with the Oxford Revue to the Edinburgh Festival at the end of his second year (alongside Terry Jones and Annabel Leveton) changed all that. They were good. The BBC made a short film of them and David Frost went up from London to see them.

For the first time he realized that he might have a career as an actor or writer. Failing to get on to the BBC's general traineeship ("they should have a special fit for those who failed to get on"), he turned instead to writing scripts for BBC radio comedy programmes.

A year later, at 22, he married Helen and bought his first home. (They have three children.) It was, he thinks, the end of childhood. Three years later *Monty Python* went on the air; a career which had seemed impossible began to take shape.

Continued from page 33

## Bridge to the future

**J**oe McCabe, a Glasgow University engineering graduate, is the present bridge manager for British Rail. It will, so far as he can see, last for ever. He says: "We have replaced a few of the lighter steel members — they wouldn't be called lighter anywhere else — near the water level. But on the whole, it's as good as the day it was built."

He has a staff of seven: riggers, five trackmen, two supervisors, and two men in a rescue boat on constant alert at North Queensferry pier, and in radio contact with the maintenance crews above. Until last year, a watchman guarded the bridge at night, once to spot any fires from steam engines catching the wooden sleepers, but latterly to spot any residents from the Fife shore taking a short cut to the Hawes Inn.

"We've given up the watch," McCabe says. "No steam trains, and people come over the road bridge if they want a drink now." The bridge, he says, has never been

much favoured for suicides; if you jump out of a train you will just land on the walkway by the track, still 150ft above the water. Another abandoned bridge custom is the throwing of pennies out of the train for luck; train windows don't open so easily anymore, to the dismay of the trackmen, who were never short of beer.

But the one activity that never stops is the painting. It is disappointing to have the myth exploded by McCabe that his crew of 28 painters start at one end, paint to the other, and start all over again. They do it at random whenever it happens to be needed, roughly on a six-year cycle.

Health inspectors were aghast at the dangers of the lead oxide paint, named Forth Bridge Red and mixed in the same Edinburgh factory since the first 25 tons were applied in 1890. Painters cleaning off the old stuff have to wear masks and take a shower as thorough as a pithead bath at the end of each working day. "We're using that new vinyl stuff now, and I hope to get at least 20 years out of a coat," McCabe says, ever mindful that the bridge costs £750,000 a year to maintain. He has to be; each year his bridge consumes 17 tons of paint in protecting the 145 acres of steel surface.

Two hundred trains a day still rumble across the bridge, from little diesel Sprinters to monsters bearing coal for Longannet power station on the northern shore of the Firth.

McCabe cannot comprehend the fuss and shenanigans being dreamed up by the public relations men to mark the centenary of this magnificent memorial to an age of assurance.

"It's only a bridge; it's no a bloody circus," observes this paragon of Scottish practicality. Benjamin Baker would wholeheartedly agree. That his mighty creation would not be standing after a century would never have entered his head.



Day shift: work in progress

## Same name dropper

If two people have the same Christian names and surnames, one can become very muddled. There is a Michael Caine who is the chairman of Booker McConnell and a Michael Caine who is an actor, John Wain the former Oxford Professor of Poetry and John Wayne the cowboy, Robert Reid, the former chairman of British Rail, and Robert Reid his successor. I am even told there used to be a Cecil Beaton who owned a garage in East Sussex. The idea that John Donne should have abandoned the church and poetry to become a Radio 2 disc jockey has long been a cause for worry, but conversely I was saddened that the rebellious rock star Pete Townshend should have thrown in his lot with the establishment by becoming social editor of *The Tidier*.

When I see posters advertising concerts by Paul Johnson, the rock singer, a small part of me fears he will interrupt a searing guitar solo in order to rap about this proud nation of ours and the infiltration of the BBC by the hard left.

Such *Doppelgänger* names can cause much trouble, particularly for agencies which specialize in sending celebrities all the press cuttings they have accrued. I remember Peter Cook, the comedian, telling me how excited he had once been when an envelope of press cuttings far larger than he had ever seen sent before arrived on his doormat. Believing himself to be undergoing a tremendous resurgence of popularity among a satire-hungry nation, he leapt on the envelope only to discover that all the cuttings referred to Peter Cook, the man who was found guilty of being the Cambridge rapist.

Perhaps because they want to appeal to the broadest spectrum of the general public, politicians have a knack of being the Cambridge rapist.

being christened with the names of other people. There are still many who find it hard to distinguish between Brian Wilson, mainstay of the Beach Boys, and Brian Wilson, Labour MP for Cunningham North; between Kenneth Clarke, the beer-drinking MP, and Kenneth Clarke, the art historian; between Gordon Brown, the Scotish rugby international, and Gordon Brown, the Labour front-

bench spokesman; between Robyn Cook, the Australian feminist singer, and Robyn Cook, the Labour spokesman on health; between Peter Brooke, the leading experimental Cabinet minister of our age, and Peter Brook, the bluff former caretaker-chairman of the international avant-garde theatre; between Willie Whitelaw, the former Home Secretary who was once buried on stage up to his neck in sand, and Willie Whitelaw, the fine Beckettian actress who pioneered the short, sharp shock.

This problem of identity came to the fore this week while I was reading Michael Sheldren's excellent book *Friends of Promise*, about Cyril Connolly and the world of *Horizon*. All was going smoothly for me until page 209 when Peter Watson, the elegant, homosexual proprietor of *Horizon* magazine, the man who was first appointed to office by Ted Heath, the noted dance band leader and former Prime Minister.

I still find it hard to equate this figure with the man who masterminded an end to the dock labour scheme, the man who gave up a promising Cabinet post to allow himself more time with his young family, the man who was first appointed to office by Ted Heath, the noted dance band leader and former Prime Minister.

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## FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Isolated, mean, merciless towards its enemies... Christopher Thomas reports from Afghanistan, torn between mujahidin and government

KABUL  
24 FEB  
AFGHANISTAN

The Salang Highway begins at a one-bar wooden gate on the edge of Kabul, where hundreds of grim-faced men stand with their backs against a freezing wind slicing down from the Hindu Kush. Two dozen appallingly overloaded buses are belching clouds of blue smoke, their drivers angry and impatient at the delay. Scores of corn-laden lorries are edging noiselessly towards the gate, like hot rods waiting for the starter's gun.

Five hours later they were still there; tempers flared and punches flew. "Get back, get back," a soldier yelled, gripping his rifle, a puny voice against so much roaring horsepower. "Get back and wait for the Russians." With that, a huge, black convoy of lorries — scores of them — came suddenly into view down the flat, narrow road, silhouetted against the snow-covered mountains in the distance. The atmosphere lost all tension. The Russians, after all, keep Kabul alive. Down that vital road, snaking all the way from the Soviet Union, came apples, pears, oranges, potatoes, meat, medicines, bread, onions, rice and flour. This, then, was the cause of the hold-up.

The Soviet Union, it must be pointed out hastily, is not loved at all, but what it brings to Kabul, a city unable to feed itself, is life itself. If this impudent mélée, half frozen in a savage winter, had known why it was being kept waiting, the participants would have huddled with peaceful resignation inside their thick woolen *petaus*. A lot of punching, shouting, threatening, engine-revving and blackened eyes would have been avoided.

Glad as people are that Kabul is not starving, there is much grumbling about the cost of staying alive. Rice prices, in particular, have soared. Only the well-off buy *nauz*, an Afghan staple, from private bakeries; most queue for hours outside government stores for a daily ration at subsidized prices.

A local doctor recounted the story of a girl of 10 who stood in the snow for two hours for bread and finally went home half frozen and empty-handed. Her father beat her and sent the girl's brother, who was nine, He never came home; he dropped dead from the cold after four hours. "When a man is hungry he becomes heartless," the doctor said. "I don't think he even shed a tear. The boy was too terrified to go home without bread, because he knew he would be thrashed. His father was too desperate to care."



RICHARD WILLSON

Once the Soviet convoy was safely in Kabul, a teenage soldier jerked open the gate and leapt out of the way as crunching gearboxes and screaming horns marked the beginning of the long journey north. They were heading for various places along the route to Mazar-i-Sharif, the last town before the Soviet border. Sometimes the road is closed by rebel attacks; today it was open all the way.

The brief drive back into Kabul from the Salang Highway takes you along wide, empty streets lined by small, square houses made of brick and mud. Children scamper through the ice-covered lanes, unperturbed by the repetitive boom and distant thud as government rockets are fired into the surrounding mountains, where the mujahidin are hiding. The children are glad that the exigencies of war have forced the government to give them a four-month winter break from school.

Across the road from a roundabout in central Kabul, a sprawling block of flats seems to be covered in sheets and shirts. From every balcony washing flaps in the wind. This is where the loathed secret police live with their families, all locked together, hated outsiders in the midst of their own people. Not for them the rigours of daily survival: like all government employees they are assured of their daily bread. In Afghanistan state workers are an élite.

From here the road takes you past several empty Western embassies, all heavily bolted and deserted like dark, forbidden castles. They are the grandest buildings in Kabul, and their forlorn emptiness gives the town an abandoned air. The British Embassy, which is in another part of town, has been robbed of its carpets and liquor by burglars. The grand old mansion is starting to look shabby after a year without

tenants, its white walls streaked with stains, its gardens looking sadly neglected. Half a dozen guards lounge around at the main gate, which is painted in a vile and vivid institutional green, making tea and chasing away stray dogs.

The trees beside the embassy gates are dead, probably from want of water in last summer's withering heat. Nobody knows when the ambassador's Rolls-Royce might trundle down the long sweeping drive again.

In the absence of good parties in Western embassies the social hub for foreigners in Kabul is the United Nations Staff House. It has a big underground bunker in the grounds in case things get nasty. Over whisky and soda, UN officials, journalists and diplomats talk the war to death. Like everybody else they tune hungrily to the BBC World Service for news of the outside world. The only newspaper in town is the government-owned *Kabul Times*, the excruciating tediousness of which is unsurpassed anywhere.

There are only two hotels in town that are fit for human habitation. The extremely basic Kabul Hotel, which is in the middle of the city, throbs with Afghan music while tough-looking men strut about with a menacing arrogance. These are mujahidin rebels who have struck peace deals with the government, an intimidating crowd that becomes terrifyingly violent under the influence of drink or drugs. Over in the corner a journalist taps away at one of the two telex machines in town. The other one is in the Intercontinental Hotel, on the edge of the city, which is an infinitely nicer, safer and duller place to while away an achingly empty evening in Kabul, where the curfew drops at 10pm.

All around Kabul, which is surrounded by tall, rugged mountains, houses cling to the most impossible slopes, waiting to be washed away by rain or knocked down the hill by winds. The city's population has risen during the 11-year war from 800,000 to many more than two million as rural Afghans have fled from the dangerous countryside. Afghanistan is essentially a nation of herders, peasants and traders; these simple people are now locked into an urban prison — illiterate, jobless and destitute. Millions more are in Pakistan and Iran.

"As a country Afghanistan doesn't exist any more," a senior government official lamented. "We have been destroyed. Our cities are smashed, the countryside is ravaged, millions have fled. It is over, finished."

It is just more than a year since the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan. The mujahidin still control the countryside, the government still controls the cities. Every town is a fortress, cut off from its hinterland and thus unable to feed itself. "I get paid a lot of extra money to work here," a diplomat said. "You never know when a mujahidin rocket is going to land on your head. But that's not the problem, really. It's the boredom that gets so hard. You can't leave Kabul, you talk about nothing but the war, and you see the same people, day in and day out. I sometimes think I will go crazy."

KABUL  
24 FEB  
AFGHANISTAN

Rural Afghans are notoriously fractious people, trusting nobody outside their village or tribe. The mean climate, poor natural facilities and rugged, barren countryside have created fierce competition for resources. Communities are often linked to the outside only by rough mountain tracks, creating an inward-looking mosaic of peoples who are passionately independent and naturally insurrectionist.

That is why invaders have suffered so dearly. In 1838, it has been recorded, a British official boasted to an Afghan leader that the British Army had marched triumphantly into Kabul without having to fire a shot. "Yes," the ruler replied, "you people have entered this country. But how will you get out?" Thus began one of the great disasters of British imperial history; hardly anybody got out.

Afghanistan is accustomed to making a living out of conflict. Warrior bands were protecting travellers along the Great Silk Road two centuries before Christ — for a price, of course. Nowadays there is a thriving trade in consumer goods and other contraband, mostly through Pakistan. Most of it is drugs.

In north-east Afghanistan, tucked against the northern edge of the Hindu Kush, a mujahidin leader, Ahmad Shah Massoud, exacts a heavy price from the central government for safe passage. He runs five provinces. It is just as it always was: Massoud's little fiefdom is isolated, mean, jealous, suspicious of its neighbours and merciless towards its many enemies, especially if they happen to be foreigners. Which is why, in the end, all invaders of this tortured moonscape of a country, which looks like something out of pre-history, have eventually fled in humiliation.

Nigel Andrew continues his tour of Britain's top tourist attractions with a stroll up Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

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**TOMORROW IN THE SUNDAY TIMES**

مكذا من الأصل

Fair

The value European and the British Downton Abbey. A tale we often thought about. For example, the traditional

## OUT AND ABOUT

# Rock with a royal view

Nigel Andrew  
continues his tour  
of Britain's top  
tourist attractions  
with a stroll up  
Edinburgh's  
Royal Mile

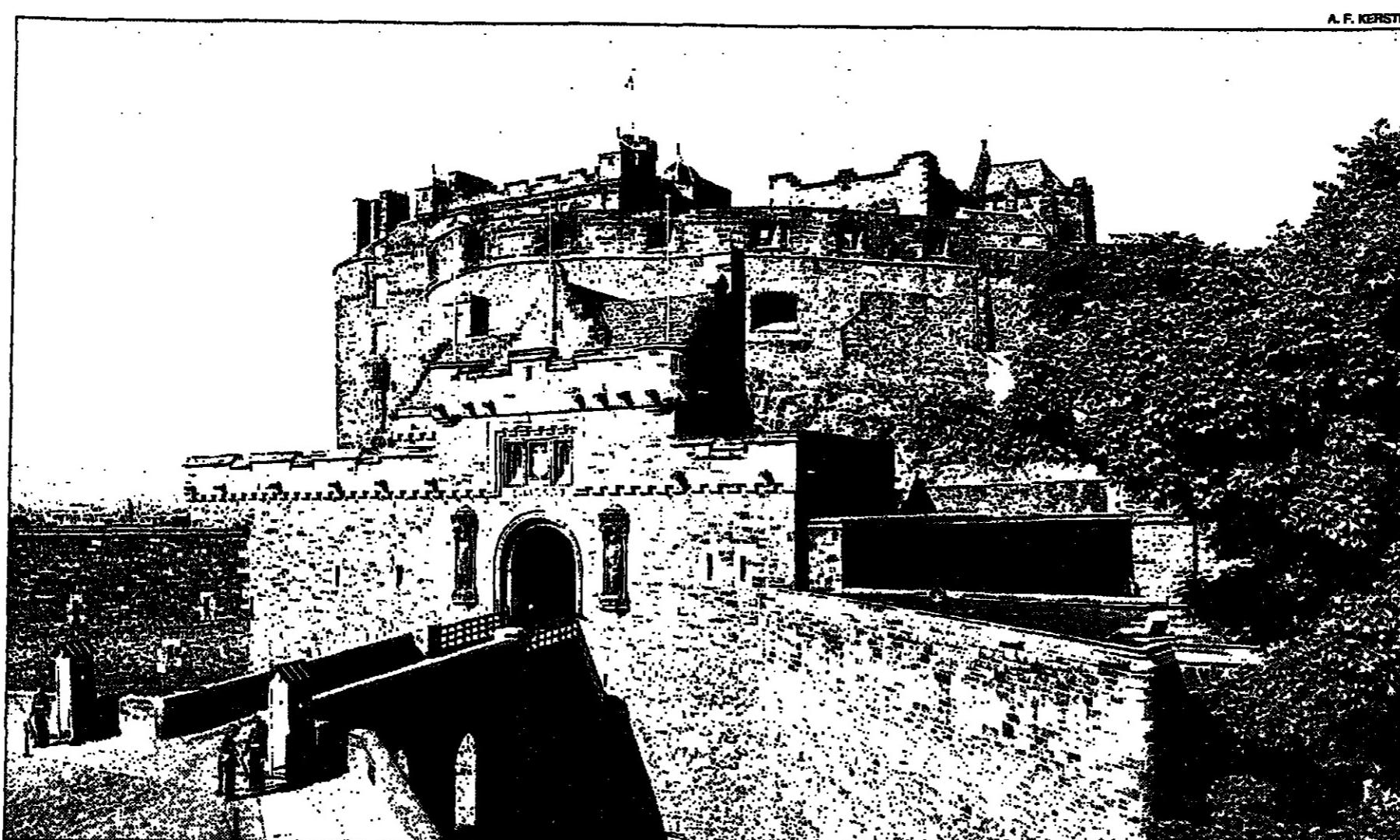
**T**here is a certain type of craggy Scottish face that seems to consist entirely of profiles. The city of Edinburgh is rather like that — a city of profiles, stark arrays of towers and spires, gables, turrets and massed chimneyspots. These dramatic skylines, with the ranges of hills and mountains beyond the city, define Edinburgh more perfectly than anything at ground level.

Surely the greatest of them all is the profile of the Old Town on its brutal eruption of rock, rising suddenly from the midst of the city, and crowned at its highest point by the long, romantic outline of the castle. It is a breathtaking sight, a uniquely beautiful urban skyline, and so instantly recognizable that the District Council incorporates it in its logo.

The castle is the perfect summation of the Old Town, the head of the sleeping beast whose spine is the Royal Mile. From the gates of Holyrood House, this ancient thoroughfare, a Scots mile in length (slightly more than an English one), climbs between grey tenements, tall and narrow, with crowsfoot gables. Mysterious little "wynds" and closes open between the buildings, and when a wider gap appears, startling vistas, half urban, half wild, open up above and below, and on either side.

The Royal Mile is scenographic to the nth degree, and despite the closeness of the buildings, the overwhelming feeling is of *plain air*, exhilaration, of huge skies and thin, bracing air.

Scots Royal Standards and St Andrew's flags fly gaily outside the gift shops and tartan "n' tweed emporia, the bars and cafés. The Royal Mile is rich in museums and other attractions — and St Giles' cathedral is worth a quick tour — but eventually you reach the Castle Esplanade. Here, before getting down to the castle, I took a step backwards to visit the Look-Out Tower with its Camera Obscura exhibition. This Victorian contraption projects a large, clear image of the Edinburgh panorama



High profile: Edinburgh Castle is a gigantic and wonderful outdoor sculpture, which we are fortunately able to climb about on and which lends an awesome beauty to the city it dominates

into a darkened room, building a fascinating 360° profile. The *tour d'horizon* begins and ends at the castle, with people silently walking about, little larger than ants, on the esplanade.

This large forecourt, which keeps the town at an arrow-shot's distance, is where the famous Tattoo takes place. Otherwise it serves as the castle's coach-park and as a splendid viewpoint. A sweet, malty smell wafts up from the city's breweries below. Seen from here the castle presents a grand front, the ramparts dominated by the mighty curve of the Half-Moon Battery, and the palace walls rising sheer from the volcanic rock of the castle crag.

The gatehouse, however, is a poor frontispiece, an unconvincing Victorian "creation", embellished with statues of Wallace and Robert the Bruce. This note of romantically reconstructed patriotism sounds loudly throughout the castle, and is largely the

product of wholesale remodelling in the 1890s. Forty years earlier there were plans for a complete rebuild in line with Victorian ideas of what a Scottish castle ought to look like (a very grand railway hotel); but these, happily, were abandoned.

At present Edinburgh Castle is in the midst of radical "improvements", which will involve boring a tunnel through the rock, as well as bringing the place up to date as a tourist attraction. (Even unimproved, it attracts nearly a million visitors a year — many more than Windsor or Warwick.) As a result of all this work going on, parts of the precinct resemble a builder's yard.

The gatehouse, however, is a poor frontispiece, an unconvincing Victorian "creation", embellished with statues of Wallace and Robert the Bruce. This note of romantically reconstructed patriotism sounds loudly throughout the castle, and is largely the

However, much has already

been done to make the buildings — a rich mix of styles and periods — worth the modern tourist's while. The Military Prison, a remarkable survivor from 1842, is now populated with life-size models of confined soldiers, and notices give case histories and background information. There is a similarly high standard of sign-in in the Castle Vaults, where the star attraction is Mons Meg, a gigantic 15th-century siege-gun. Here an audiovisual display tells you all you need to know — in a commentary voiced by Magnus Magnusson — while a neon sign outside counts down the minutes of the next showing.

The Scottish National War Memorial needs no "interpretation". This chapel is the newest of the castle buildings, done in the 1920s in a debased Gothic idiom which I loathed; others, however, find the interior deeply moving. Nearby is St Margaret's Chapel, a plain Nor-

man box, rescued and restored in the last century. The tiny whitewashed interior is dominated by a fine chanter arch beyond which a castle guard, in tarten trews and blue tam-o'-shanter, sits reading — or at least, that is what I found.

Crown Square, at the heart of the castle, is overlooked not only by the War Memorial but by the Palace, a surprisingly plain building with a high stair turret, and the adjoining Great Hall. The hall suffered an over-enthusiastic late Victorian restoration, but the splendid hammerbeam roof is a fine sight.

Inside the Palace the King's Dining-Room and its ante-chamber can be seen, but behind glass. Queen Mary's Room is open, but has been furnished in a bland and approximate late 17th-century style (cream walls, institutional carpet). The little chamber off it is the one to see — if you can squeeze your way in. In this panelled room, barely more than a

closet, Mary, Queen of Scots, gave birth to James VI of Scotland and I of England; and it still carries the wall paintings celebrating James's homecoming. Upstairs, behind steel doors, is the Crown Room, a barrel-vaulted chamber where you can admire the Scottish regalia and crown, sword and sceptre.

Perhaps things will change when the improvements are completed, but at present the best reason for visiting Edinburgh Castle is simply to enjoy being inside the defences, looking out at the incomparable views. More than anything, it is like a gigantic and wonderful outdoor sculpture, which we are fortunately able to climb about on, and which, with its mighty skyline, lends an awesome beauty to the city which it dominates. Some profile.

● Edinburgh Castle is open Mon-Sat 9.30am-4.30pm, Sun 12.30-3.30pm (winter hours). Admission £2.20, child and OAP £1.20.

## OUTINGS

KIELDER FOREST HUSKY RALLY: Kielder provides the perfect setting for the competition — 13 miles — and spectators can see "mushers" and their teams (100 are expected) compete today and tomorrow.

Kielder Castle, Kielder, Northumberland. Today from 10am, tomorrow from 9am.

JORVIK FINALE: Procession of Viking and Anglo-Saxon warriors from the museum gardens to the Eye of York, from 1.30pm, followed by a full-scale re-enactment tournament. Torchlight finale from 6.45pm, when the procession leaves the Memorial Gardens and makes its way to King's Staith for the boat burning ceremony on the Ouse. Viking feast of the Jarl in Merchant Venturers Hall, 7.45pm, York. Today. All events free except feast, tickets £18.50 from the Heritage Shop (0904 643211).

FASHION WEEK EVENTS: Free jewellery-making demonstration at 11am, children's jewellery-making workshop using recycled materials at 3pm, tickets £1. Location: 9pm 24-25 Feb. The Malling Arts Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 44222). Today.

HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE: Head of the River race for boats over the University Boat Race course from Monk's Eel to Putney. 420 crews are taking part, leaving at 10-second intervals from 3pm. The race lasts about an hour and a half. River Thames. Today.

MODELWORLD '90: One of the finest model and modellers' events with 17 layouts in all gauges and sizes demonstrating British, Continental and American practices.

The Brighton Centre, Brighton, East Sussex (0273 203151). Today 10am-7pm, tomorrow 10am-6pm. Adult £2.50, child £1, senior citizen £1, family ticket £8.

CRAFT IN ACTION: Wide range of craft items for sale, plus demonstrations of various skills.

Dunham Massey Hall, Altringham, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow 10am-4.30pm. Admission free.

HANDS ON WORKSHOPS: Try your hand at spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing or paper-making. Toys and games for children. Woodland and riverside walks.

Styal Workshop, Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire (0625 527488). Today, tomorrow. Mill admission, adult £2.25, child £2, car-park £1. Two-hour courses £2 each. Booking necessary.

TREES IN WINTER: A six-mile nature walk looking at many different species of tree. Meet Neal Windett at the parish church — top gate — Kirkburton, south of Huddersfield. Today, 1.15pm.

ALL THAT GLISTERS: Bill and Christina Steenson demonstrate jewellery-making techniques. Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast. Tomorrow 2.30-4.30pm. Free.

Judy Froshang

## CAMPUS

It's not what you know, but what you're like that counts, Ben Webster writes

## Polishing off the veneer

The anxiety suffered by finalists as they prepare to be ejected into the real world has been soothed in recent years by the reassuring knowledge that they are entering a sellers' market. A myth has been realized: employers, alarmed at the shortage of graduates, will come crawling in search of new recruits. Post-finals euphoria will inevitably be followed by a cascade of unsolicited offers of employment.

There are signs, however, that the cyclical employment market is entering one of its downward phases. With prospects now less rosy, the nearly-graduate would be wise to consider what recruiters are really looking for.

Academic prowess is no passport to a good job. Three years spent in a library merely train you to sit there for another three years. The standards of achievement at university, set by dons, do not necessarily translate into the world of employment. The ability to solve Schrödinger's equation is no proof of business acumen. If you are destined for a 2:2, all is by no means lost.

Many students adopt the scientific approach to getting a job. They digest all the literature, attend the presentations, and spend their vacations acquiring relevant work experience. Recruiters, however, are increasingly inclined

I asked him to talk about himself and a very dominant, forceful and interesting person emerged... his mother.



you're concentrating on finals is not.

As one careers guide puts it: "Finding a job will require at least as much concentrated effort as you need to prepare for your final examinations." Researching your prospective employer, filling out the application form, writing the cover letter, going to the first interview, spending a whole day at the second — all of these make vicious inroads on revision time.

Jeopardizing your degree does not present a problem if you escape the maelstrom clutching an offer. Contracts are signed months before finals are sat, and are rarely dependent on the class you attain.

The worst outcome, however, is to be unanimously rejected and to have sacrificed your degree for the privilege. Before finals, everyone can claim to be confident of a 2:1.

After finals the grim facts cannot be concealed on your CV. So I'm off back to the interview schedule, reluctantly accepting defeat under your nose make this difficult.

There are those, of course, who keep aloof from this whole business. Interrogated about their plans for next year, they reply airily: "I'm taking a year off." But those already basking in their golden hellos will sneer at this, and interpret it as a confession of failure. The simple fact that

— the value of such inter-European co-operation, has also not been without its peculiar insights.

While we struggled with our lecturer's handwriting and the weighty decision of whether to plump for the *formule traditionnelle* or *rapide* in the restaurant, our fellow French students showed their concern

at problems of overcrowding and lack of funding by organizing a vigorous campaign of strikes and demonstrations. While it may seem that little has changed since the upheavals of 1968, it seems that Bordeaux's blues are not destined to turn to outright revolt in the immediate future. The truth is that the spring term

## COLLECTING

## Oh boy, that'll be the day

**T**he largest private collection of memorabilia devoted to Buddy Holly, the Fifties rock 'n' roll star, will be sold by Phillips in Bayswater, west London, on April 23.

One of Holly's biggest fans is Paul McCartney, the former Beatle whose company now owns the rights to all Holly's music. Phillips is sending him details of the sale.

Holly's act made him an unlikely star by modern standards: he wore a suit, heavy black-framed glasses and stood relatively still on stage. But his songs, particularly "That'll Be The Day", inspired a wide and intense following and a biographical musical, *Buddy*, currently at the Victoria Palace in London is going to New York in the autumn.

David Howery, an American fan, collected more than 100 personal items that followed the singer's life through childhood, school days, recording studios and concerts. Holly's best-known British appearance was at the London Palladium in March, 1958. The grey two-piece suit that he wore that night is expected to make up to £40,000.

The sale is important because of Holly's influence on so many other groups and because so few of his items ever appear at auction," said

PISTOLS FOR TWO: 105 lots of antique firearms in this sale of Yorkshire weaver J. C. L. Knopf's private collection. Several fine pairs of duelling pistols, including a pair by John Twigg of London, circa 1785, estimated at £3,000-£5,000, and a pair by Joseph Manton, complete with their original mahogany case, dating from 1815 (est £3,000-£4,000).

Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-561 7611). Sale: Wed 1 am.

DORSET DELIGHTS: English furniture including a pair of Regency mahogany library berger chairs (est £4,000-£6,000), William IV mahogany dining table (est £2,000-£3,000) and a George III mahogany sideboard from a local country house (est £3,000-£5,000). Henry Duke and Son, 40

Andrew Milton, the company's pop and music specialist. The entire collection could make between £400,000 and £500,000.

The sale takes place during

the week when the three major auction houses

hold their pop and rock sales.

London has become the centre of this international collectors' market and the sales are held twice a year to cater for fans who fly in from Japan and the US.

Holly lived in Lubbock, a small town in Texas, and fans will be bidding for his high school yearbooks from 1949, '53, '54 and '55. The sale will include £20,000-£5,000 and 29 lots of unpublished, handwritten lyrics (estimated value from £2,500 to £8,000).

Holly's break came through a local radio station in December 1955. He was heard by Eddie Crandall, a Nashville agent, who sent a brief telegram to the head of the radio

station reading: "Have Buddy Holly cut four original songs on acetate. Don't change his style at all..." The message, now estimated to fetch between £8,000 and £10,000, led to Holly's first contract with Decca.

"That'll Be The Day" was heard by the Beatles and recorded by them privately in Liverpool. Milton says: "I think it's the first song they ever did. There's only one known copy and that's owned by Paul McCartney."

Buddy Holly had a group called the Crickets and that's why the Beatles chose their name. The Beatles named themselves after him. He wrote simple songs with simple chords and when you were learning to play the guitar they were easy to play. They were simple and catchy, but the best songs are simple."

Holly toured Britain in 1958. He appeared on Sunday Night at the London Palladium.

Holly died in a plane crash with two other singers, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens, in February 1959. The plane was found shortly after the crash when the lake was cleaned. It was sent home, water-stained, but with its contents intact — the singer's first driving licence and his autographed club-membership cards. Among these, from his early days before the brief flash of stardom, is one from the Club for Unappreciated Musicians.

Among musical instruments on offer is a replica of his 1957 Fender Stratocaster guitar signed by the Everly Brothers. Peggy Sue — the girl of the song (£3,000 to £4,000).

A pair of his black suede loafers will fit anyone with shoe size 8½ and £10,000, while two pairs of his black glasses are perfect for the wealthy fan who can afford £15,000 a pair.

One of the most curious items is his wallet, lost while water-skiing on a lake six months before he died in a plane crash with two other singers, the Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens, in February 1959. The wallet was found shortly after the crash when the lake was cleaned. It was sent home, water-stained, but with its contents intact — the singer's first driving licence and his autographed club-membership cards. Among these, from his early days before the brief flash of stardom, is one from the Club for Unappreciated Musicians.

European and Japanese swords, modern and antique firearms and sword fittings will attract collectors in town for the annual arms fair at the Park Lane Hotel, Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-629 6602). Viewing: Tues, Wed 9am-4.30pm, Thurs 9am-noon. Sale: Thurs 2pm.

TEXTILE TREASURES: A romantic theme dominates this fine costume and textile sale. A silk waistcoat embroidered with hearts, circa 1780, is expected to make £200-£300 and another, decorated with initials, £300-£500. An 18th-century dress in red and yellow striped silk is the highlight (£2,000-£4,000).

Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-561 7611). Viewing: Mon 9am-7pm, Tues 9am-7.30pm, Wed 9am-11.30am. Sale: Tues 2pm.

ARMS AND THE MAN: Douglasader's personal memorabilia will dominate this auction of military items during the fiftieth anniversary year of the Battle of Britain, but

SILVER SESSION: A couple of small pieces of Chester silver, a hand mirror and novelty pincushion in the form of a wren (£100-£150), come home in a sale of silver, plate and allied wares followed by oriental ceramics and works of art spread over two days. Sotheby's, Booth Mansion, Watertown Street, Chester (024 315531). Viewing: today 9am-4.30pm, Mon, Tues 9.30am-4.30pm. Silver sale: Tues 11am; ceramics Wed 11am.

## Fair exchange

From Alice Castle, University of Bordeaux, on an Erasmus exchange programme from Bristol University.

Bristol's traditional links with Bordeaux now extend to all Erasmus-founded exchange programmes between the two universities' history departments. The task of adapting to a new educational system and surviving life on a French campus, while proving to the four of us from Bristol — the first group to be sent to France

## EATING OUT

Wines from the Loire valley are alive and well and can be found in Waterloo, Jonathan Meades discovers

**D**espite the south-west Wiltshire merchant Yapp's having plugged them for 20 years, despite their cheapness, despite the British familiarity with and fondness for the land they come from, despite their being fashionable in Paris and drunk to the exclusion of pretty much all others in Brittany, the red wines of the Loire valley are obstinately ignored in this country. Well, maybe ignored is to put it too strongly; but they are undoubtedly overlooked in the composition of restaurant lists. Perhaps the standard wisdom about Loire reds is that no one drinks them so they aren't worth selling. So it follows that sooner or later no one will be given the opportunity to drink them.

There have been and there still exist exceptions. The only decent restaurant my home town, Salisbury, ever had, a place called Crane's, showed a healthy interest. I'm pretty sure that at present there is no restaurant in Britain with a Loire list as extensive as RSJ's in Waterloo. The list suggests the work of a monomaniac collector, it borders on the fetishistic. It is, furthermore, ungodly priced — in fact, so dirt cheap that one might surmise that the owner of RSJ is as much in the business of vinous pedagogy as in that of running a restaurant. And, of course, every Loire white, every *vin mousseux*, every *demi-sec* and *rouge* you ever heard of and scores you've never seen before are to be found here. The inventory of sweet wines is lengthy, too. The only thing an ingrate might find to whine about is the too-curt list of half-bottles and the kindred shortage of wines by the glass. If ever a restaurant needed a machine to facilitate sampling by the glass then this is it; it's pointless to deny that much of the Loire's production is manure in a bottle, and even the most discerning buyer is liable to let some slip through in a fit of optimism. Having said that I must commend RSJ's '78 Château de Chambord by the not very exacting standards of Anjou Cabernets this was outstanding. And the sweet Coteaux de l'Aubrac (which is sold by the glass) was perkier than the more expensive wines of the Coteaux du Layon often are. Fans of Sancerre would very likely consider the '88 from La Guérinière crisp or gooseberry-fresh. I'm not a fan: acid for stripping the enamel off teeth seems closer to the mark. The good thing, incidentally, about Anjou Cabernets, irrespective of their quality, is that you can drink bathfuls of the stuff and suffer no after-effects. This may not actually be a recommendation, but it's worth remembering if you do find yourself alone with a vat of it.

RSJ is handsomely housed in



## A symphony of Loire wines

what seem to be former light industrial premises. You enter past an open kitchen and ascend to a low-ceilinged, small-windowed dining-room: metal, wood and wicker chairs; striped wallpaper; too many tables. The clientele the night I dined was mostly from out of town I guess; it included a group of tattersall-striped classics teachers, one of whom had, mysteriously, cause to consult an Ordnance Survey map of Tieford, another of whom told a salutary tale of menu prose. He had encountered a bad case of restauranteur's euphemism — "symphonies" of this, a spot of "nestling" and so; he had subsequently composed a verse mocking these usages and sent it to the restaurant in question. This establishment was, amazingly, flattened by his attentions. As I keep saying, restaurateurs are from a different lexical planet. The menu

RSJ  
★★★  
13a Coin Street, London SE1 (01-928 4554)  
Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat 250-260. Major cards.  
GASCOGNE  
No stars  
12 Blenheim Terrace, London NW8 (01-525 7036). £32. Major cards.

prose at RSJ is no more than averagely purple, but it is prolix. Every item seems to be suffixed by a two-line list of ingredients. As a general rule I'd suggest that the shorter the menu description the better the cooking: prize-winners for brevity are: Markwick and Hunt, Harvey's; Kensington Place, The River Café — these establishments assume that their customers are literate adults. RSJ seems to believe it is catering to an audience raised on Card and toilet tissue

advertisements spoken by men with cloying voices. Much of the cooking is too fiddicious for its own good: it beats me why a tomato-flavoured stew of (indistinguishable) pork, beef, lamb and veal should have raisins on top of it.

Cabbage and lentil soup with black and white puddings sounded wintry, northern, apt. But it was executed with a self-defeating daintiness. A first course of scallops and oysters and a main course of salmon were better, though they both shared a similarly based sauce. The cheeses are first rate, the sweets well made. The service is smooth early on and less smooth later when the theatres and concert halls of the South Bank turn out. Two will pay £40-£50.

RSJ so called because it is held up by a rolled steel joist. Gascogne is, I suspect, so called because

someone stuck a pin in a Tottenham Hotspur programme, watched it alight on the name of the excitable midfielder Paul Gascoigne and subsequently misspelled it on the facia, the menu, the matches, etc. It certainly can't be called after an area of south-west France, with which it has only a token connection — it offers *foie gras*.

I'm sure I'm right: this St John's Wood wine bar (with restaurant prices) plays host to the kind of freelance company directors who are proud to know professional footballers. Tears come to their eyes when they speak of the golden age of Chopper Harris and Peter Storey. Even their hair is football related — it looks like the stuffing of a British Rail seat dashed open on the way back from Villa Park. The pioneer exponent of this imaginatively *ad hoc* cuisine is Kenny Jones of the Who. I guess that's enough hair talk, but I'll bet that the average *British Rail* seat innard doesn't taste much less savoury than Gascoigne's grub. I had a fish soup which was the colour of snot on a bath but which tasted slightly better than it looked. The sauce with it may have been an attempt at *rouille*, maybe *atoli*. It was not pleasant: I could go further and hurl a paragraph of damning similes at it. But this is Saturday morning, this is a family newspaper and, besides, it doesn't do to get dangerously worked up over such picayune matters as a wine-bar cook's inability to conjure an acceptable sauce.

It would be going too far to say that a carbonnade actually tasted like either a rug or a chest-wing (known in the bogs-whiskers trade as a "chip") but it would be accurate to state that it was not the real thing. Had it merely been billed as "beef stew", it would have been bad enough, but the promise of the authentic Belgian dish sets up a higher sort of expectation and, contrariwise, prompts a larger dose of disappointment. Clearly I was at fault for having even thought that it might be related to the genuine article. The almost entirely flavourless meat is served with rice and nasty pieces of cheese on toast.

What else? Well, there is loud, lyrically inspiring pop music ("Ay, teetehah leave them kidz alone"). There is the tendency of the staff to say "there you go" as they dump food in front of you. There is the practice of shoving a chunk of lime into lager bottles and there is the look of incredulity when the culprit is asked to remove it. A three-course meal for two with wine would cost at about £32. It is threatened that this will be the first of a chain. What next? Limac? Vennables? The very idea demands a red card.

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an appetiser and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

### FRENCH REGIONAL

Le Breconnier  
467 Upper Richmond Road, London SW14 (01-878 2653)  
★★★  
Variable French regional cooking in a small East Sheen dining-room. The chef is a young woman who seems to be pruned dishes — the sweet trifles are excellent and rabbit with chestnut puree is pretty good too. £58.

Zazou  
74 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-436 5133)  
★★★★★  
Southern French fish restaurant in a smart basement with some sort of cocktail bar on the ground floor. Many of the dishes are slightly unusual — succulently oriented: crayfish, snails, frogs' legs, etc., etc., etc. with soy and ginger. Grilled fish is simply served with extra virgin olive oil. The cooking is unfailingly impressive and so are the cheeses which are, oddly, all British. £74.

Lou Pescador  
241 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 (01-370 1057)  
★★★★★  
Informal Provençal fish restaurant (whose rare meat dishes are perfectly sound) — pasta with seafood, etc. The place does not accept bookings which means that you need to arrive early or very late. Service is at best brisk and too frequently degenerates into hostility and abuse. £40.

Violette  
54 Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 (01-701 7621)  
★★★★★  
Very French bistro frequented by very French punters. The cooking is altogether good and generally south-western — duck confit, cassoulet, that sort of thing. The atmosphere is friendly and the staff are unusually welcoming. Indifferent young wines. £50.

Sud Ouest  
27-31 Earl Street, London SW1 (01-584 4484)  
★★★★★  
Vague French eatery, faintly surreal interior. Though accomplished, very confident cooking by an Englishman, Nigel Davies, who draws on the repertoire of the French South West and treats a steady path between reverence and invention. Start with warm oysters, followed by a mix of garlic and parsley, duck with braised cabbage — these are excellent. The sweets are good, too. The punters are interestingly

WEST COUNTRY

Merkinch and Hunt  
43 Corn Street, Bristol 1 (0272 262658)  
★★★★★  
Spectacular fine cooking in a central Bristol basement. This is one of the most congenial restaurants in the UK and certain of its dishes are a match for those anywhere in Europe: guinea fowl with Cavendish mushrooms, etc. The staff are particularly good. The wine list is very special indeed. Great cheeses, totally adorable service. £55-£70.

White's  
93 High Street, Cricklade, Wiltshire (0793 751110)  
★★★★★  
Confident and assertive cooking that tastes of something. Colin White's stuff is unabashedly rustic, generous, fairly inventive: leek soup with croutons; creamy trout; duck with parsnips. Excellent British farmhouse cheeses. The service is friendly, the wines are bargains. £50.

## FOOD

### Oat out, rice in

**O**at bran was last year. The health fad which brought you eat bran bread, eat bran biscuits and even eat bran chocolate pralines could be about to be superseded by the bran of a brand new super seed — rice.

Food fetishists have not felt quite the same about oat bran since the *New England Journal of Medicine* suggested that the only way it could really reduce cholesterol in the blood might be if you ate so much of it you had little room for anything else.

But now comes rice bran. Rice bran, its promoters say, shares oat bran's ability to lower cholesterol "when taken as part of a low fat diet", but it has added advantages.

They believe that where the efficiency of oats may be impaired by cooking, rice

oil and much of the protein of the original grain. Yet it has been used almost exclusively to feed livestock.

You could, though, be getting yours soon. Already a company called General Design, of Worcester Park, Surrey, is distributing Ener-G Pure Rice Bran to health food shops, principally, at this stage, as a fibre source for people with coeliac disease and wheat allergies.

Strangely, the only time that most people in the United Kingdom will have heard of rice bran before was last year when a consignment of it, contaminated with lead, was released as animal feed and killed 40 cows and swept millions of pints of milk off the market.

Rice bran should not contain lead, of course, but it does harbour most of the vitamins,

etc.

And this month I bought my

first bottle of rice bran oil

in the Army & Navy Stores food

hall (£1.58 for 375cl). The

label proclaims it cholesterol-

free, and on the back it adds

that it has been popular in

Japan for 50 years. I can't

help thinking, shouldn't we

have been told?

Robin Young

### Safety tests to be sniffed at

**I**n my supermarket I can choose any day between a Bleu d'Auvergne and a Bleu de Bresse, a Brie *industrielisé* and a Camembert, a Camembert and a Brillat Savarin, a Port Salut and a Reblochon, and between a dozen goats and ewes.

That's just the French cheese. There's also a cornucopia of Dutch, Swiss, Italian, Greek, Welsh, Irish and English. There's cooked and uncooked, farmhouse, artisanal or factory-made, soft and hard, aged and fresh, with crust or washed, charred or stuck with peppercorns or raisins.

But are they fit to eat? Those serried ranks of goodies may not be what they seem. As Patrick Rance, poet of cheese and founder of the great Wells Stores in Streatham, Berkshire, points out: "Cheeses by the same name vary from maker to maker, from season to season, and the same cheese can vary from day to day." Can any supermarket honestly take account of such subtle variations?

Then there's the vital matter of temperature and humidity. Rance's experience is that "50-60°F is kind, 45-50°F ideal for long-term storage... Below 40°F can be fatal to the cheese."

So are those so scrupulously hygienic supermarket shelves quietly giving once-thriving cheeses the kiss of death?

Ripeness is all, and the French supermarkets usually solve the problem by installing special counters, manned by knowledgeable staff, where living, breathing cheeses may be discussed, prodded, sniffed and tasted to see if they are ready for the table that night or on the morrow.

According to Caroline Gledhill, retail manager of Paxton & Whitfield in Jermyn Street (cheesemongers since 1797) and herself an old supermarket hand, cheese poses special problems for the big chains. Profit margins are not good. You can't standardize sell-by

dates. You can't recycle cheese, so there is wastage. Buying is centralized and there is a lack of knowledge in the outlets.

Juliet Harbutt, who runs the delectable Jarcobsons in Bute Street and Elizabeth Street in central London (the nearest things to a top Paris *fromagerie* you will find in London, partly because her French cheese comes from Androuet, the undisputed big cheese in the field), has Munster-strong views on the supermarket product. She claims that, throughout the progress of the stuff from

Sixty days  
in the cooler...  
in cheese off.

That's just the cheese: it's just

date the package and put it on the shelves

— from where it is an unthinkingly

removed by customers for the next

month or more. In his shop there are

three separate storage/maturing areas,

with differing temperature-humidity

controls for different types of cheese (big

farmhouse Cheddars settle in for at least

18 months).

The shelves themselves, Rance says,

being refrigerated, are noxious to the cheese. Refrigeration works by drawing air, and therefore moisture, out of the refrigerator, so the cheese dries out.

*Listeria* hysteria has not helped, and the new laws will make things worse for the demanding palate. (Juliet Harbutt gloomily foresees a future in which only pasteurized cheese will be available.)

So can anything be done? Well, if you

are lucky enough to live near the three

cheese havens I've mentioned, you'll be

in good hands: improvisation is another answer. In my local Sainsbury, the Camembert Pont l'Évêque and Brie de Meaux are, *en principe*, of the highest quality, from suppliers with impeccable credentials. But all are routinely sold with pallid crusts (they look as if a month in the country would do them the world of good) and with inside, a solid strip of what the French sardonically call *cement*. I have found that in the case of Camembert and Pont l'Évêque these faults may be rectified by nursing them at a higher temperature for about a week, when they come close to resembling the kind of cheese you are offered in France when you have confirmed that it is "*pour ce soir*".

The Brie, although the mushroomy

smell of the ripe product is unmistakable, will not, alas, ripen after it has been

cured. So look for slices that are creamy yellow all through. If you don't find them, hard cheese.

Charles Hennessy

Once you are fluent in wine labels, Jane takes on the rest of the paper.

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## DRINK

# Wine labels for polyglots

Once you are fluent in the language of French wine labels, Jane MacQuitty writes, it's time to take on the rest of Europe, and then the world

**E**very European wine-producing country has a different method of classification, even though the French *appellation d'origine contrôlée*, or AC system, is accepted as the international blueprint for wine regulations.

Italy has the most topsy-turvy set of rules. It sells many of its finest wines under its humbler *Vino da Tavola* (table wine) designation. As soon as it instigated a superior Denominazione di origine controllata (DOC) category for its wines, it ruined its reputation by ditching it out to all and sundry. It awarded its finest quality category, Denominazione di origine controllata e garantita (DOCG), to a handful of first-class wines, then wrecked by giving Chianti a blanket DOCG approval and elevating, among others, an ordinary white from the North, Albana di Romagna, to the same level.

There is no logic, at present, to Italian wine rules and regulations. Italian wine producers will have to shape up soon. The EC is committed to standardizing wine laws and reform of the DOC and DOCG regulations is inevitable.

Italy's first attempt at establishing a wine hierarchy along the lines of the French AC system came in 1963 with DOC. Like the French system, the Italian one is *not* a guarantee of quality, but merely an indication that a wine comes from a defined region, is made from certain grapes with a particular yield and vinified in a certain way. Regional characteristics and traditions are as fundamental to the Italian system as they are to the French. There is, however, a big difference. While the French did their best to *upgrade* quality, the Italians have mostly given in to current practices. This explains why so many wine producers fail to follow the rules.

To date there are three Italian quality levels, all of which appear on wine labels. *Vino da Tavola*, the equivalent of the French *Vin de Table* category, offers everything from plonk to top quality wines. A new — and not yet implemented — *Vini Tipici* (typical wine category), similar to the French *Vin de Pays*, may help consumers sort out the better *Vino da Tavola*. On the next rung are the DOC wines. There are now some 250 of these which are usually governed by a local *consorzio*, or consortium of growers, as well as the national DOC committee.

Politics play a large part in DOC life, and the chief problems include high yields and the practice of blending in wines from outside a region. The highest Italian wine designation is DOCG. There are currently six Italian DOCGs, with others on the way: Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Brunello di Montalcino, Barolo and Barbaresco are all more or less justifiable DOCG members, but Chianti and Albana di Romagna still produce some awful wines.

Other useful Italian label terminology includes the words *classico* and *riserva*.

*Classico* indicates that the wine has come from the traditional heart of the region of production, as in Chianti Classico. *Riserva* is just what it sounds like — a wine, sometimes a special selection, that has undergone extra ageing. The word *superiore* is worth looking out for, too, as it usually indicates a superior DOC wine with higher alcohol content and further ageing.

There are numerous Italian names for farms and wineries. *Azienda* means a farm or estate, so *azienda vinicola* denotes an estate that buys in grapes, and *casa vinicola* a house or company that buys in grapes.

*Tenuta* and *poderi* also mean farm or estate. *Cantina* by itself indicates a winery or cellar, but when it is followed by *sociale* or *cooperativa* it means a co-operative-made wine.

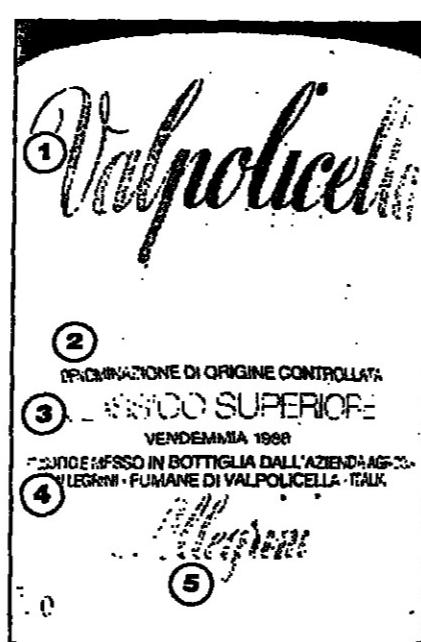
If the Italians specialize in "interpreting" the law, then the Germans follow it to the last detail. Unfortunately, their needlessly complicated labels are not a great help to the consumer. The German system is logical, however, right down to using different coloured glass for its two leading regions, green for Mosel and brown for Rhine, or hock.

The badly constructed 1971 wine laws have been revised on numerous occasions, but they are still far from perfect; at worst, they allow quantities of bland sugar-water to go out under quality labels. The latest revision should reduce the extraordinarily high yields attained by German wine producers, as it limits the amount of wine that can be sold every year. Even so, most of Germany's quality wines achieve yields of more than 100 hectolitres per hectare, roughly twice that of French quality wines.

The key to decoding German wine labels is the knowledge that sweetness is everything. This means that, except for the lower categories, the sweeter the wine, the better it is deemed to be. Lowest of the German wines is the *Tafelwein* category. This is a blend of wines from EC countries, rarely German, that have been bottled in Germany. Half a notch up is *Deutscher Tafelwein*, a German blend of table wine, followed by *Landwein*, or country wine, that the Germans feel corresponds to the French *Vin de Pays* category.

Most German wines fall into the next category, *QbA*, or *Qualitätswein* eines bestimmten Anbaugebietes. These quality wines come from one of the 11 specified regions, and often sound a lot better than they taste. They all carry an AP number which is given after passing official blind tasting and chemical analysis tests. As with quality French and Italian wines, Germany's QbAs have to display regional, varietal and traditional characteristics.

However, the most obvious characteristic is sweetness, which, at the *QbA* level, will usually have been gained by the addition of *Süts-reserve* (unfermented grape juice). Other indicators on *QbA* labels are the grape variety (*Riesling* is the finest), the name of the village or wine-making community, and an *Einzellage* or vineyard site. There are 3,000 vineyard sites, so even specialist German merchants will not know them all. There are also 150 *Grosslagen*, groups of individual sites or vineyards, a term invented for those who



ITALY: (1) Name of wine; (2) Official DOC status; (3) Denotes a superior selected wine from the heart of the Valpolciano region; (4) Produced and bottled in the Allegrini estate; (5) Producer's name



SPAIN: (1) Official regional title of wine; (2) Superior aged wine; (3) Name of the winery that produced the wine; (4) From the Oltana village in the superior Rioja Alta district; (5) Bottled at the property



GERMANY: (1) Producer's name; (2) Village name; (3) Vineyard name; (4) Grape variety and QmP quality level; (5) Official quality rating; (6) Wine region

wines are known as *con crianza*, or with ageing. The Consejo Regulador in each region dictates the exact amount of ageing: two years, spent in a combination of cask and bottle, is usually the minimum. Spain's fine red *Reservas* spend at least three years in the cellar, of which one year must be in oak casks. White *Reservas* must have two years' maturation, of which six months must be in oak casks. *Gran Reserva* is an even grander Spanish title, indicating a five-year-old red wine, aged for two years in cask and three in bottle. White *Gran Reserva* wines are a minimum of four years old, of which six months must have been spent in cask.

The rest of the world is still way behind most of Europe in sorting out its quality levels. California is now in the process of creating specific appellations within the larger wine-producing areas, such as the Napa and Sonoma valleys. So far four areas, including Stag's Leap District and Los Carneros in the quality section of the Napa Valley, have been given special appellation status. If a vineyard name appears on a Californian wine label, 95 per cent of the grapes will have come from that vineyard. Similarly, if a grape variety's name is mentioned, 75 per cent of the wine will come from that variety.

Australia could well follow California's lead into a legally recognized appellation system. Some individual regions, such as Mudgee in New South Wales, are currently enforcing their own appellation stamp, care of a blind tasting test, but there are no government moves to enforce this county-wide. If you see one variety appearing alone on an Australian label, 80 per cent of the wine will be made from that grape. Blends that are made from less than 80 per cent of one wine will list their other varietal component in descending order of importance, such as Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz. Vintage years on labels indicate that 95 per cent of the wine is from that vintage, and if a region of origin is quoted, 80 per cent will come from that region.

## THE TIMES COOK

## Hot lines from Hong Kong

Frances Bissell reports on current Occidental tastes at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, where she is working as guest cook



to hold the filling. In the end, we were all delighted with the long, golden slabs of rich, crisp, lardy pastry.

I mentioned compensations earlier. If these were needed, some of them would come in the form of the "six-o'clocks".

Every day at this time, someone from room service rings our doorbell and delivers a small delicacy under a silver cloche. As I write, slivers of gravad lax arranged on a gold-rimmed black plate have appeared. It might have been charred tuna slices with orange relish, potato baskets with salmon tartare or the miniature smoked salmon pizza for which Jürg Münch, the executive chef, is becoming famous. My potted oysters, which have been very popular at lunchtime, would make rather good "six-o'clocks", too. In case you have lost the recipe, you take freshly opened, drained oysters and half their weight in very soft unsalted butter, and chop and mix with finely chopped anchovies, fresh nutmeg, lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste. The cold kitchen chef, Thomas Hollenstein, showed me a very nice way of presenting it. First chill the mixture, and then shape into quenelles with two spoons and arrange in the cleaned-out oyster shell, garnished with a little greenery. The shells are then piled up on a mound of coarse salt and seaweed on a silver platter.

Here are some more of the dishes which have been popular during my promotion at the Mandarin Oriental.

Pork and rabbit pie (makes 10 x 4in/2cm slices)

Stock:

1 pig's trotter, split in two

2lb/900g pork bones

4pt/2.3l water

1 carrot

1 celery stalk

12 peppercorns

Simmer the ingredients to

gather for two to three hours. Strain and reduce to 1pt/570ml. Once when I had neither pig's trotter nor pork bones, I made the stock with a chicken carcass and then used gelatine to obtain a set. It worked very well and is, of course, quicker since the chicken carcass only needs an hour or so to simmer. For an even finer tasting jelly, you can replace some of the water with dry white wine.

Filling:

1lb/455g belly pork

1lb/500g streaky bacon

1lb/455g lean pork and rabbit

1tsp freshly ground black pepper

1tsp freshly grated nutmeg

1tbsp finely chopped fresh parsley

1/2tsp finely chopped fresh sage or thyme

Remove the rind from the belly pork and bacon (this can be added to the stock pot) and mince them together. Fry quickly, in batches if necessary, to just remove the raw

pastry, and knead, adding more flour as necessary to form a smooth, workable pastry. Cut off a quarter of it to use as lid, and press or roll out the rest, and with it line a 2lb/1kg loaf tin.

Boiled stuffed chicken (serves 4)

4 oven-ready chicken breasts, free-range if possible

1tsp salt

1tsp freshly ground black pepper

2 ripe bananas, peeled

Simmer the ingredients to

leaving about 1/2in/1cm pastry hanging over the rim of the tin. Fill with the pork mixture, slightly mounding it in the centre. Roll out the remaining pastry and cover the pie. Press the edges together, roll them over once inside the rim of the loaf tin (that way it will be an easy matter to slide a palette knife all the way round the pie when cold to ease it out of the tin) and make a fluted edge by pinching together at intervals. Roll out the pastry trimmings to make stick-on decorations if you wish. Make a pencil-sized hole in the top of the pastry, and keep it open with a small roll of greaseproof paper. Brush the pie with milk or egg to glaze it, and lay two or three layers of greaseproof paper or foil on top so that the crust does not bake too brown. Bake in the centre of a pre-heated oven, 170°C/325°F/gas 3, for one and a quarter hours. Remove the paper for the last 15 minutes. Let the pie cool for two to three hours, and then slowly pour it in through the hole in the pastry, as much of the pint of rich stock as you

can. Allow to cool completely. Then wrap in foil or greaseproof paper to store. Do not keep it for more than two or three days in the refrigerator.

Salmon steaks with fennel stuffing and saffron sauce (serves 4)

1 fennel bulb weighing about 1/2lb/230g

3 shallots or 1 medium onion

2oz/60g unsalted butter

1/2pt/280ml fish stock

pinch of saffron stamens

1pt/110ml good dry white wine

3tbsp double cream

4 x 1 1/4in salmon steaks, about 6oz/170g each

seasoning

Trim the fennel of any bruised or discoloured parts. Remove the stringy bits, and reserve any fronds for garnish.

Cut the fennel into small dice. Peel and chop the shallots, and cook the vegetables in half the unsalted butter in a small saucier until soft.

Pour a tablespoon or so of fish stock into an egg-cup, and soak the saffron stamens in it.

Boil the fish stock and wine together until reduced by two thirds.

Butter an ovenproof dish,

and lay the salmon steaks in it.

Season them lightly and cover with a buttered paper.

Bake for eight minutes in a pre-heated oven, 190°C/375°F/gas 5.

Remove from the oven, and keep the meat warm while you make a little gravy. Skim the fat from the roasting tin, and pour in the white wine. Set it on the heat, and bring to the boil, scraping up any bits stuck to the tin.

Add two or three tablespoons of water, and cook for five minutes.

When reduced to about half, it is ready to serve with the chicken.

Meat cake

1/2lb/230g unsalted butter

8oz/170g caster sugar

3 size 3 eggs

10oz/280g self-raising flour

scant 1pt/140ml milk

candied lemon peel

Lightly season the chicken

breasts on both sides.

Mix the pepper into the bananas, mashing them until fairly smooth. Cut the crust from the bread and crumble it into the bananas.

Mix the tarragon and onion.

With a sharp knife, make a pocket in the chicken breasts, and spoon the mixture inside. Secure with cocktail sticks.

Put them on a rack in a roasting tin, and

bake for 30 to 40 minutes in a

fairly hot oven, 190°C/375°F/gas 5.

Remove from the oven, and keep the meat warm while you make a little gravy. Skim the fat from the roasting tin, and pour in the white wine. Set it on the heat, and bring to the boil, scraping up any bits stuck to the tin.

Add two or three tablespoons of water, and cook for five minutes.

When reduced to about half, it is ready to serve with the chicken.

Like PEARLS. Like a

Carrier brooch. Like an ounce

of Amour.

If you're in an intimate

little restaurant with the one

you LOVE and none of these

things happen to be available,

like Petit Liqueur.

## Love in a strange climate

### CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE OUTSIDE CHILD  
By Nina Bawden  
*Gollancz, £8.95*



In the words of Jane Tucker: "My mother is dead and my father is busy." The busyness involves marine engineering, with frequent sailings to Australia, but even when the voyaging is done father is not much in evidence, so Jane is brought up by two engagingly dotty maiden aunts.

What triggers the story is Jane's discovery that the reason for her father's absence while on leave is because he has married again and that, all unbeknown, she possesses a half-brother and a half-sister. How can this be? Father — the aunts — these are civilized persons. Why should they want to conceal so momentous a fact?

Thirteen-year-old Jane and her

brother, 12-year-old Plato Jones, decide to find out.

This is no tale of children playing detective, though. Coded letters and mysterious telephone calls do occur, but Jane is a deeply sympathetic, level-headed character, and as she progresses in her discoveries, the thing that comes to matter is the effect that they have on her.

Finding the children, playing with them as though they were a stranger ("the outside child"), gradually makes her the participant in a love-story — a story about love —

and the reader takes it as hard as Jane herself when the plot comes to pieces in her hands.

By all the codes of children's fiction, the outside child should end up inside. Jane's stepmother — the cause of all the trouble — should reform gracefully, and everyone live happily ever after.

But Nina Bawden is too honest a novelist for that. Her muted ending has the disappointment of unsentimental truth about it — and yet it is a truth that Jane, and Plato Jones as well, will grow on.

## Funny little Belgian

Chris Petit

THE LIFE AND TIMES  
OF HERCULE POIROT  
By Anne Hart  
*Pavilion, £14.95*

When asked about writing poetry, Dylan Thomas replied that he'd far rather lie in a hot bath sucking boiled sweets and reading Agatha Christie. As Thomas well knew, what counts with Christie are the conditions under which she is read; remove the boiled sweets and hot bath and what is left? As Poirot, that careful arranger of his own comforts, would say, *nien*. By making Poirot such an old hypochondriac, Christie seemed aware of the fact that her books make for ideal couvalescent reading. Though one thinks of her stories as emotionally chilly, she allows Poirot no end of cosseting: no country house draught is too slight, no malady too *imaginaria* for Poirot not to take to the comfort of his bed.

During Christie's heyday, there was a point to his complaints, which expressed a reasonable protest against the inconveniences of English middle-class life: lack of adequate heating, a mania for fresh air, poor food ill-cooked and badly presented. The Americans misleadingly call this draughty genre "English cozy", a term rather better applied to the conditions the reader is invited to create before settling down with a Christie.

Hercule Poirot appeared first in 1916, already, according to Christie, "not too young", in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*. His lasting appeal — he staggered

way, Christie was as accurate as Jane Austen on the narrow social conventions of a particular class.

As such, Poirot, the funny outsider, seems the result of an immaculate conception in a way that his greater contemporary, Jules Maigret, does not. Poirot's concert permits none of the mental anguish — beyond *ennui* — endured by Maigret, nor does he view his work with anything like the same sense of vocation. Though not above a little matchmaking, he is no master of destinies in the manner of M. Maigret. And yet readers have happily put up with him all these years. The reason, one assumes, is because he delivers results, which is, after all, why Christie is read, and he has solved some of her most ingenious crimes. After Poirot's denouement things are usually allowed to return, almost as though by magic, to normal; many of her stories — with their carefully domestic settings — function as exercises in clever housekeeping.

The problem with Anne Hart's *Poirot* is that she offers nothing beyond biographical summaries of Poirot and subsidiary characters.

The result is a perfect example of barking up the wrong tree. Character is of little importance to either Christie or reader. In his lively appreciation of Christie, *A Talent to Deceive*, Robert Barnard wrote that "in her classic phase she is icily detached from her characters, the places they live in, and from any opinion or attitude they may hold. Dorothy L. Sayers is besotted with Lord Peter. Agatha Christie feels no emotion toward any of her creations; perhaps Poirot rouses a flicker of irritation, but that is all one can say."

The interest in reading Christie lies solely in working toward the solution. Anne Hart's book plays fair and does not reveal results, but this denies us practical evidence of Poirot's genius. What is left is a tedious little man too full of himself, an opinion, it seems, roughly corresponding to Christie's own. In *Mrs McGinty's Dead*, Christie has the detective writer, Ariadne Oliver, burst out in exasperation against her own Poirot-like creation: "Why a Finn when I know nothing of Finland? Why all the idiotic mannerisms? These things just happen. You try something — and people seem to like it — and then you go on — and before you know where you are, you've got someone like that maddening [person] tied to you for life. And people even write and say how fond you must be of him. Fond of him? If I ever met [him] in real life, I'd do a better murder than any I've ever invented."



Five Poirots: top left, Peter Ustinov, 1978; Charles Laughton, 1938; David Suchet, 1988-90; Albert Finney, 1976. Above, a 1938 drawing

of Poirot. The 1938 drawing is a caricature of a man with a large nose and a prominent chin, wearing a suit and tie.

I've never invented."

It's a good apologist. His grasp of economics, for instance, allows him to make mincemeat of mutual contradictions tormenting the soul of man "under capitalism", torn as it is between Keynes and Hayek. His command of sociology permits him to analyse such phenomena as

# Breathing freely in a socialist future

**Andrei Navrozov ponders what effect the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe could have on world socialism — as interpreted by a Soviet apologist**

THE DIALECTIC OF CHANGE  
By Boris Kagaritsky  
*Verso, £29.95*

needed to interpret them abroad.

That was under Stalin, although I am sure Mao had his own version. None the less, in 1962 in China, and in 1985 in Russia, a new, improved kind of freedom emerged. It was the freedom to say that in no country had man breathed less free than in Mao's China or Stalin's Russia.

"No one is more of a slave," said

Goethe, "than he who imagines himself free without being so." The

tragedy of freedom — not in a new,

improved sense, but in its original

meaning of absolute sovereignty of

the individual — is that the binding

truth of this Romantic vision is

finding fewer and fewer adherents.

Thus those in the West who

imagine Soviet slaves of today, or

Chinese slaves before June 4, 1989,

as more free than they had been

under Stalin and Mao are them-

selves slaves.

The simulacrum of economic,

political, and cultural freedoms,

allowed by totalitarian oligarchs

while they wage peace with the

West, has often been compared with that of Lenin's years, including his New Economic Policy,

except that today's "freedoms" are

really new. They are certainly not

improved: in 1940, long after the

demise of the NEP, 11.7 per cent of

Russia's population was engaged in

permitted "private enterprise",

while the figure for 1987 was 0.1 per cent.

Does this mean that Stalin's

slaves were 100 times more

economically free than they are

today? Not at all. It means that

even economic freedom — the

simplest freedom, "the liberty to

buy, and sell, and otherwise con-

tract with one another", as Hobbes

has it in his *Leviathan* — cannot be

understood in terms of permissions

and prohibitions. Other freedoms

may be harder to define, but it is

useful to recall that in 1940 one

could say much with equanimity —

for instance, "Pushkin is a great

Russian writer" — that could only

have been said at great risk to one's

career under Lenin.

History shows the word "Commu-

nism" to have been applied to

itself by the Soviet oligarchy very

intensely from 1918 to 1934, less

intensely from 1933 to 1953,

somewhat more intensely from

1954 to 1984, and hardly at all since

1985. Similar fluctuations can be

plotted with the word "socialism"

in focus. But while totalitarian

reality itself is there to teach the

slave how to interpret such words

at home, competent apologists are

the rise of Solidarity in Poland,

with the conclusion that the "democratic movement, striving for genuine renewal in Eastern Europe, cannot do without either Marxist theory or a revolutionary strategy". His common sense suggests that "it is one thing to desire democracy and another to realize it in practice", while his urbane side reveals a familiarity with Jung and Xenophon.

Credit should be given to Yuri Andropov. Kagaritsky writes with cool detachment in "Perestroika", the book's last chapter and in every sense its grand finale, "who, during his tenure as head of the KGB, began the very difficult job of uniting various factions in the apparatus." These "healthy forces" received a further boost with "the selection of Mikhail Gorbachov as General Secretary", although their job was, and remains, difficult. Kagaritsky's conclusion? "Upon which forces gain the upper hand depends the future of socialism in our country and, perhaps, the whole world."

This last sentence of *The Dialectic of Change* can be paraphrased as follows: unless you, western socialists, endorse the transfer of power from Brezhnev's Communist Party to Andropov's secret police apparatus as enthusiastically as Mrs Thatcher has done, you may never see the future where man at last breathes free. *Really* free, not like under Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev.

**H**ence *The Dialectic of Change*. The author, introduced by the publisher, modestly but firmly, as "a Soviet citizen", is here to interpret the "collapse of Communism" for the benefit of those on the left who have begun to suspect that Andropov's *perestroika* is a power shift from the Communist Party to some other oligarchic entity, one which may do even less for their socialist ideals than the "Communists", from Lenin to Brezhnev, had done. I say nothing of Kagaritsky's motives: no doubt he feels himself really free to think and write about the future of socialism. The fact that what he thinks and writes is what he is allowed to think and write may, for our purposes, be called a coincidence. Was it not a coincidence, after all, that Boris Pasternak, in 1928 added the mention of Lenin to his immortal *High Illness*? It is only by reminding ourselves that Kagaritsky's subject is economic and political freedom (not, as in the poet's case, the freedom of ecstasy and despair) that we can see this book for what it is — *perestroika's* Trojan horse in the camp of world socialism — and its author for what he is, a Soviet apologist.

He is a good apologist. His grasp of economics, for instance, allows him to make mincemeat of mutual contradictions tormenting the soul of man "under capitalism", torn as it is between Keynes and Hayek. His command of sociology permits him to analyse such phenomena as

**W**hat is it like to be Japanese? Their merchandise is in every European home, but their lives are as enigmatic as ever. Perhaps it is hardy fair to expect Shusaku Endo to lead us to an answer. A Catholic, he spent some years studying in France as a young man, and is deeply read in western literature. His books are grounded in two traditions. They are not European, but they know too much about Europe to provide a safe guide to Japanese thinking.

A baffling doubleness is what confronts the hero of *Scandal*, his latest work. Suguro, like Endo, is a novelist approaching an honourable old age after a lifetime of success. He is serenely married and a practising Catholic, a man who has come to terms with the colliding cultures that direct his work.

Suguro acknowledges omniscient sin, but sees within it a perverse value. With the inexorable logic of his faith, he perceives that transgression is, after all, the means to salvation. Sin contains within itself a longing for rebirth.

But this is a novel that mounts

the defeat of reason. Its characters are

compounded of contradictions that refuse resolution. They embody tenderness and depravity, loyalty

and, perhaps, the whole world.

**D**ouble defeat of reason

### FICTION

Dinah Birch

SCANDAL

By Shusaku Endo

Penguin, £4.99

character, he is forced to acknowledge cruelty of a kind which disables grace. Outraged, he struggles to reach a way of understanding what he sees. His slow disintegration is a product of what his vision of humanity had left out.

This is a novel that mounts

the defeat of reason. Its characters are

compounded of contradictions that

refuse resolution. They embody

tenderness and depravity, loyalty

and, perhaps, the whole world.

**H**ugh David

**FRIENDS OF PROMISE**  
Cyril Connolly and the World of Horizon  
By Michael Shelden  
Minerva, £5.99

as the "Auden group" was to the Thirties, and the Bloomsbury set to the years before the Great War. All encapsulated the sensibilities of their times, though none perhaps had quite as much influence as Connolly, who edited *Horizon*, the parish magazine of the English-speaking intelligentsia, from its foundation in December 1933 until its demise in 1949.

It was true that he was well served in the early days by his co-editor, Stephen Spender, and regularly baited out by Peter Watson, a wealthy art collector. In addition there was a succession of wives and girlfriends ever ready to wield scissors and paste. But, as Shelden

points out, the book is not a

straightforward account

of the life and times of Cyril Connolly, the man behind the magazine.

It is a book that is

zely  
ture  
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cialism  
ologist



Despite vindictiveness and the sending capacity to forgive. And their duplicity is most intensely expressed in their eroticism.

It is among the muddled compulsions of sex that Suguro finally sees his way. In desperation, he insults a psychoanalyst. But scientific psychoanalysis, born out of a cognition that the irrationalities of libido might govern our lives, along since given up.

The expert has no advice to offer. We come to the conclusion that man beings can't be explained in merely logical terms. They are truly zarte... Anything can happen in people."

The insulating effects of translation contribute to a sense of cool detachment in the writing which might seem to sit oddly with its star theme. But the cultivated and slightly analytical distance of Endo's writing is part of its power to stir.

If spiritual assurance has fallen apart, and rationality cannot take its place, only a precariously concealed artifice lies before us and society. It is a cheerless prospect, if it is not confined to the East. If we're looking for instruction in the assuringly alien ways of Japan, it is not the book for you.

## at war

monstrates, *Horizon* always remained Connolly's show. Irreducibly, idealised and ultimately more than eternally "promising", used his personal "Comment" columns as diaries - and not frequently as declarations of war for the greater part of the decade. In turn Sheldan has used them and much else to assemble a final portrait of the editor-as-man unlike Connolly's widow, Barbara Stetton, whose recently-published autobiography, *Tears fore Bedtime and Weep No More*, pits the husband-as-monster. But it is where it directly impinges on the running of the magazine does it directly address "the complex and of Connolly's emotional life". This, together with his rather fine treatment of Watson's uses with the London homosexual demi-monde, occasionally gives the reader with a feeling of contained hagiography; but the book remains an engaging account of a fascinating man at the centre of a changing literary world.

## The ruin of the writing classes

Brian Morton

**THE THIRSTY MUSE:**  
Alcohol and the American writer

By Tom Dardis

Abacus, £3.99

**JOHN BARLEYCORN:**  
"Alcoholic Memoirs"



By Jack London  
Edited and introduced by  
John Sutherland  
Oxford, £4.95

sceptically protesting in its defestation of alcohol, but also wholeheartedly committed to the machismo of hard drinking. In a remarkable early scene the 14-year-old London tumbles drunkenly into the mud and barnacles of San Francisco Bay, covered in blood and slime, he is reborn a man, and a drinking man.

Dardis believes that a mixture of squeamishness and thrill to a version of Hemingway's belief that "good writers are drinking writers" has meant that American literary biography too often treats alcoholism as something wilful, unproblematic and controlled. The facts are patently otherwise.

Fitzgerald's swollen heart gave out at 44. Hemingway and Faulkner managed to lurch and burp on through second and third acts of increasingly helpless drinking, but neither man wrote anything worth a damn after his early forties.

In 1912 Jack London was the golden boy of American letters, tough and handsome, almost invincibly successful. John Sutherland likens the contemporary impact of *John Barleycorn* to the revelation that Rock Hudson was gay and was dying of Aids. London scholars have been inclined to treat it as a piece of fiction. The fact is that London published it precisely because it was non-fiction (and thus exempt from a non-index-linked fiction deal he had struck with *Cosmopolitan*).

It is an extraordinary work, boastful and denying by turns,

convincingly, "mine is no tale of a reformed drunkard". Nevertheless the alternation of heightened memory and amnesia seems typical of alcoholism. London's explanation is that he is not a drunkard, but a man of imagination, and as such is bound to what he calls the "White Logic". This phrase, all the more chilling for never being fully explained, seems to describe that hung-over, befuddled glimmer of something more, something beyond, that may be the fate of drinking men who also write.

Oliver Goulden enjoys an entertaining medieval debate on the usefulness of music

The renewal of interest in early music has led to the transcription and performance of many forgotten works. This has naturally required the solution of various technical questions. Now a celebrated practitioner, the director of Gothic Voices, has been prompted to ask and answer many other questions, social, economic, political, theological... Christopher Page, a Cambridge don, working in both Middle English literature and early music (*Voces and Instruments of the Middle Ages*, 1987), has written a book on musical life and ideas, 1100-1300, which is scholarly, entertaining, well-written, and far too important to be left to academic specialists.

Page's new book, *The Owl and the Nightingale*, takes its title from an anonymous English poem of c.1200, in which the two birds debate the usefulness and the proper character of music. For the owl, who represents the tradition of Christian asceticism, music's role is to make tearful supplication for God's mercy on sinful man; its appropriate mode is plainchant. The nightingale, on the other hand, is a courtly bird; she believes that man is born for the joys of heaven, and sees no reason not to rejoice in this life too; she stands for the delights (and the extravagances) of the new polyphony, as well as the secular songs of the troubadours and trouvères. Page seeks to explain a change of attitudes, which is summed up in the contrast between the much quoted pronouncement of Honorius of Autun to the effect that a minister could have no hope of heaven, and the opinion of Alberus Magnus that singing and dancing may be useful to the state.

Seven chapters explore every

## Sing a song of scholarship



United in musical accord: 13th-century dancers and musicians join in a carole or public dance

type of musical activity known to exist at the period, and the attitudes toward them of nobles, preachers, confessors and theologians. The quantity of reading required for such research is enormous, and no one could hope to search through it all. Page has carried out a series of

possible. But Page is a wizard with the evidence, and the reader will enjoy watching him at work.

The seventh chapter is one of the most remarkable. It deals with a group of people who remained faithful to the old ascetic attitude to music the Cistercian monks. Page examines the possible explanations for their propensity to see or hear demons even, and especially, while engaged in singing the liturgy. Beyond the obvious psychological and physiological causes that led them to attribute, for instance, a coughing fit or hoarseness of voice to the malice of Satan, he points to their conviction that, by their austere life and their daily performance of the plainchant liturgy, they were in the forefront of the battle against the devil.

The final chapter attempts to answer political questions: why did this new toleration of some musical activities coexist among the clerical literati with a neurotic fear of subversion, which led to systematic persecution of lepers, Jews, and heretics, and the attempt to extend clerical control of the laity through obligatory annual confession? Page's convincing explanation is that these opposing trends sprang from the same cause, a preoccupation with the idea of the state propagated by this group of literati. They were convinced that man in his fallen condition must be a social and political animal, and that the state is the natural way for this necessity to be met. The state must, therefore, not be subverted, and it may be strengthened by the useful activities of entertainers. Making a concession to man's weakness, they mitigate the sadness of human life with joyful sounds, and reconcile man with life's present trials by singing of disorders of earlier days.

**THE OWL AND THE NIGHTINGALE**  
By Christopher Page  
Dent, £20

archaeological digs. Some of his finds are rich and coherent; in other areas his excavations have turned up isolated scraps of evidence about which only speculation is

## Fall of the house of Morgan

Kate Mortimer

**THE PRIDE OF LUCIFER**  
By Dominic Hobson  
Hamish Hamilton, £16.99

Reading the story of Morgan Grenfell's last three years but one, one cannot help being faintly surprised that the bank did not go broke. Dominic Hobson scatters figures around, but does not analyse the aggregate effect of the large sums the bank was throwing not only at shares of takeover bidders and their targets, but also at new businesses and new markets, in many of which it was making a loss. It is hard not to feel that it had been selling anything less nebulous than financial services, it would by 1988 have been going the way of any other firm which grows too fast and retains old-fashioned styles of management which cannot cope.

The Morgan family founders seem to have been less reckless with their capital. Admittedly the firm nearly failed in 1857 - being overexposed to railway loans - but J.P. Morgan characteristically made his first turn using his employer's credit to trade coffee for his own account. The first 90 pages of this book tell the story of the Morgans as much as of Morgan Grenfell (the shadowy Grenfell gave his name to the firm in 1910), and the doings of J.S. and J.P. Morgan are as interestingly recounted as these larger-than-life figures deserve. In London, the Morgans regarded the Barings as their great rivals, while sharing with them rampant anti-Semitism and a taste for English land and titled connections.

Morgan Grenfell emerged from the shadow of the Americans, after the Glass Steagall Act necessitated a loosening of the banking firm's ties with its securities-dealing associate. Things seem to have been quiet until the 1960s, although Hobson reminds us that the denationalisations of the 1950s had almost as much hype as those of the 1980s, and that Morgan Grenfell played a key but not very successful role in the former.

Morgan Grenfell started slowly in the great takeover wars of the 1960s but then accelerated to the point where its activities helped bring the Takeover Code into existence, and then to necessitate its continual refinement. Hobson's account of the Stock Exchange's exonerating of Cazenove and the Bank of England's trenchant carpeting of Morgan Grenfell during the 1968 battle for Gallaher's is a depressing reminder that *plus ca change*. The second half of the book contains a well-placed and readable account of the Crimmins affair, and the acknowledged depredations of Hamish Hamilton's lawyers do not disrupt the flow.

For, in fact, the Guinness affair is only a lengthy illustration supporting the author's main purpose. His attack on Christopher Reeves (a "personnel director") and his "public school bullyboys", who scorned university in favour of entrepreneurial moneymaking, is swinging and rings pretty true. The lack of strategy towards Big Bang, and the approach to the Euromarkets and to overseas expansion, are all paraded as evidence that Morgan Grenfell was heading for trouble even while profits, for a time, grew explosively.

## Tropical sleuthing

### HORROR

Anne Billson

**MYSTERY**  
By Peter Straub  
Grafton, £13.95

This is set in the world of the 18th-century Italian *castrati*, and follows the fortunes of Tonio, a high-born Venetian who is forcibly castrated by a scheming brother, and whose plans for revenge are complicated when he becomes celebrated as a boy soprano, first in Naples and later in Rome. Rice delivers her familiar brand of homoeroticism and historical detail - the descriptions of voice-training are fascinating - and, while the beginning of the book is a bit of a plod, it all moves to a satisfying climax.

• **The Kill Riff**, by David J. Schow (Macdonald, £12.95). Schow is best known as a writer of short horror stories, but his first novel hovers somewhere between pulp-nasty and thriller. It is a clobbering good read about a Los Angeles advertising executive, who is spurred by the accidental death of his daughter to wreak revenge on the heavy-metal rock band whose gig she was attending at the time. Schow displays an insider's knowledge of headbanging habits, without ever slipping into fanzine territory. His deeply flawed hero is a headcase and a half, whose route to the inevitable show-down with the equally flawed lead singer of the band packs a fistful of killer twists - one of which left me gasping for air.

• **Cry to Heaven**, by Anne Rice (Chatto & Windus, £12.95). Rice is another heavyweight who sometimes ventures into fanzine territory. *Cry to Heaven* was published in the US in 1982, but the burgeoning popularity of the author's vampire chronicles has presumably encouraged British publishers to dig up titles such as

• **Rain**, by Stephen Gallagher (New English Library, £12.95, paperback £7.95). Gallagher, who has been labelled a "cult phenomena" (sic) by his publishers, has garnered himself a horrid reputation thanks to the demon serial killer in *Valley of Lights*. Since then, he has been refining his own

brand of psycho-thriller, tapping into the heart of British lowlife with a disconcerting knock for charting mental disintegration and a razor-sharp sense of place. The places in *Rain* are motorway service stations and London as seen through the eyes of Lucy, a runaway teenager searching for the hit-and-run driver who killed her sister. The plot is not the most important thing here (though anyone who values it should skip the dust-jacket blurb), but Gallagher's descriptions - of low-rent hotels, the Embankment after dark, and the seedy nightclub where Lucy finds work - pin down London's underbelly with deadly accuracy. The *noir-ish* mood is so intense that it comes as a shock when the writer suddenly starts wrapping up the story; one could have done with him being slightly less businesslike about it.

• **The Axeman Cometh**, by John Farris (Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95). This is prefaced by an extraordinary author's note, in which Farris claims that the novel "was planned to be read as a long story, at one sitting", and that anyone unable to spare the time should read something else. This latter suggestion was indeed a tempting proposition, as I have not been enamoured of Farris's work in the past (even if he did provide Brian de Palma with the source material for *The Fury*), but I struggled through its 139 pages (priced at only £1 less than Anne Rice's \$29) - in three sessions, as it happens; does Farris seriously think that readers have unlimited leisure time on their hands? Those who haven't can skip this book with impunity; the story of a woman trapped in a lift, and trying to exorcise memories of the night when her family was messily murdered, contrives to be pretentious and incomprehensible at the same time, though - with its animated killer-pigs and guest appearance by Ernest Hemingway - it could scarcely be described as predictable.

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Dionne Warwick: approaches songs with a respect

## Amazing tall storeys

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

It will in time require the services of *The Times'* literary editor Philip Howard and several lexicographers to do full justice to Whickerpeak, a language used only on the sound tracks of *Whicker's World* (BBC 1).

Last night, the mighty Alan was continuing his tour of Hong Kong high life. Discovering "double faith in a doomed colony of dual nationality", not to mention "a pervasive air of contented avarice" and "a multiplicity of divinities", Whicker came across a local millionaire whose great grandfather had a seven-storey house, on each floor of which he would keep a different wife, ascending one floor per day until finally collapsing on the roof on Sundays.

Sadly we soon had to leave him behind, and head off to other corners of a frenzied square mile where the party is over for a doomed people", although big business and the multi-million-dollar auctions still appear to be carrying on much as before.

Whicker's linking narrative is still made up of old *News Chronicle* headlines and the kind of language nowadays only elsewhere spoken on tape by airline hostesses while your plane has been delayed and your baggage lost. It is simultaneously reassuring and meaningless, like an assembly of the world's greatest clichés or special offer to nostalgic collectors.

Some of your treasures have been taken from Chinese graves, said Alan last night to an amateur. The unkind word might have been "stolen". The play is that it was true, neither Alan nor his guest looked more than fractionally disconcerted; luckily it was almost time for another lunch.

You have married Susannah who is gorgeous, said Alan reassuringly to his host. Why did you not marry a Gloucestershire Sloane? I do not think, said the Chinese millionaire, that my parents would have liked it.

## Italian sounds turned sweet

CONCERTS  
Stephen Pettitt  
Gabrieli Consort  
Wigmore Hall

As Paul McCreesh, the director of the Gabrieli Consort and Players, told us, Venice gets most of the attention when it comes to 17th-century Italian music. He and his group thus turned philanthropically to Rome for this concert (part of their Early Music Network tour), and principally to the music of Domenico Mazzocchi and Giacomo Carissimi.

At first, in "Oh, se potete mai, luci adorate" and "Pian piano", two highly expressive madrigals by Mazzocchi, one's fear was that this group of five singers, ably supported by a continuo complement of chitarone, harp, bass violins and harpsichord or organ, would over-exaggerate their mannerisms, attempting to convey an intensity they did not genuinely seem to feel, throughout the evening. Their phrasing tended to make the music muddy, and the crescendos on final chords, though according to McCreesh clearly marked in the sources, were an irritation.

The Russian pianist Irina Zaritskaya has a devoted following and a large number of pupils in this country, and they turned out in force for her Purcell Room recital on Thursday night. Not all were able to obtain a ticket; those who did, gave her a rapturous reception for her playing of music by three compatriots in the first half — Scriabin, Prokofiev and Kabalevsky — followed by a Chopin selection in the second. In truth, the playing, though never less than impressive in both technical and stylistic terms, was not of uniform quality.

The opening Sonate Fantasie by Scriabin elicited the warm-toned, passionately surging eloquence that is his hallmark. Less happy was the group of Prokofiev

## The purring tiger and sleepy kitten

## ROCK

David Toop  
Dionne Warwick  
London Palladium

Only a tiny percentage of popular singers have survived the last three decades with their dignity as well as their careers intact. Dionne Warwick is perhaps the most admirable of them all. From 1964 until 1970, her voice was the perfect instrument for a remarkable run of hit songs composed by Burt Bacharach and lyricist Hal David.

Even during a lean period in the Seventies she recorded classic, forgotten albums like *Track of the Cat*, and more recently has sailed back into favour in the company of Jeffrey Osborne. Nobody should begrudge her continuing success, but there is a justifiable dread with American performers that their back-catalogue will be dismissed in a 10-minute medley, leaving the way clear for new releases.

To some extent, the unwanted scenario unfolded. "Walk On By" was followed in short succession by "I Say A Little Prayer", "Do You Know The Way To San Jose?", and a beautiful rendition of "Alfie", enriched by the dramatic pause, and subtle, fluent phrasing.

No complaints about the treatment of any of these iconographic moments from Sixties pop, of course, since Warwick always approaches songs with a love and respect for the technical demands,

the emotional content and their significance in the minds of an audience. The problem was that there were just too many hits in close succession. Many of my own favourites were excluded, but of course the definitive versions of classics such as "Anyone who had a Heart" exist on record.

Her patter between songs was diffident, sometimes suffering from a minor attack of Californian schmaltz, but the music was approached with a grace and understatement which distracted attention from the easy listening component of her later material. From this point of view, "Heart-breaker", "Deja Vu", "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and even the rather banal "Love Power" transcended the associations of supper-club music.

Warwick's great ability, from the beginning of her career, was to entice the substance from a lyric with gentle, almost imperceptible pressure. To see it achieved on stage is a rare pleasure.

**Y**ou could say that this was a highly strung performance, but if you did you would be referring to a side-kick violinist and a full-size chamber orchestra that made its entrée in the encore. Rock shows do not come any more low-key than this one. Tanita Tikaram may be at that rebellious age, but beneath a schoolgirl exterior beats an ancient heart. She even named her preconceived album after it.

As is clear from her current world tour, the follow-up album is not so apidly titled. Having collected some catchy melodies on *Ancient Heart*, Tikaram has become something of a one-chord-wonder on *The Sweet Keeper*. As she performed songs from it one wondered whether it might not more honestly be called *The Deep Sleep*.

With her lugubrious deep voice clinging to a monotone as long as it possibly could in songs such as "Consider The Rain", one had time to consider other things too, particularly how soon it would be before she could be classified under "Most rapturously received dirge". Even in up-tempo numbers like "World Outside Your Window" and "Twist in my Solitude", Tikaram had her foot flat on the brake pedal.

Tikaram's speaking voice is

Jasper Rees  
Tanita Tikaram  
Hammersmith Odeon

bizarrely at odds with her almost harlotous singing mouth. Linking song to song with the gancheness of a tongue-tied ingénue, she gushingly described each member of her five-person band as "wonderful", which seemed fair enough, until she used the same adjective on "A Town Called Basingstoke", where she grew up.

However, when one compares her delivery of the older songs written in Basingstoke ("Good Tradition", "Cathedral Song") with the newer ones written in hotel rooms ("Deliver Me", "Never Known"), one suddenly changes one's time and years for the news of Hampshire. Apart from a beautifully pared-down rendition of "I'll Come Back Today", the best non-Basingstoke ballad was a cover of Leonard Cohen's "Ain't No Cure For Love".

But after the Kreisler String Orchestra had augmented "Little Sister Leaving Town" and "Harm in your Hands" and Tikaram had left the stage, one wanted to whisk her to Basingstoke, to renew some home-town inspiration.



Tanita: lulling audiences with monotonous tones

## Master of the trolls

Heather Neill meets  
Nick Ormerod, who  
has designed the  
National's Peer Gynt

**A**warning notice read "Troll Alley" in the corridor outside Rehearsal Room 2, part of the Royal National Theatre's backstage maze which might have been designed to shelter the Securite. But inside there was nothing more sinister than a large cast energetically tackling the difficulties inherent in the wedding scene of *Peer Gynt*.

This, explained the director, Declan Donnellan, was the last phase of rehearsal, a matter of "telling people where to stand". But, even now, the odd line was being re-allocated. The rejection of the groom by Ingrid the bride became funnier every minute.

"It's the Flintstones," declared Donnellan, to get the right mood. Musicians played. Ingrid disappeared noisily (some 14 times), slamming the door of a sturdy wooden hut behind her.

The hut dominated the rehearsal room and it dominates the Olivier stage. Solid, panelled, its floor sweeping almost to the floor, it represents the central image of Nick Ormerod's set. It is several different homes, a hill, a sand dune, a ship's deck.

*Peer Gynt* moves from Norwegian mountains to troll world beneath, from the Sahara to a ship in a storm. It was written to be read rather than performed, so

Ibsen makes no concessions to staging. The hut/hill is Ormerod's solution to the rapidly changing scenes. "It is in the actors' control; they drive the play along."

In Ormerod's conception of the first scenes, Norway is "real", the set bristling with authentic tools and hints of a bustling peasant society. Its colours are muted; grey, blue and brown. "It is mundane, to be escaped from." When the trolls engulf Peer, they are human to the waist, but wear tails, "as if", says Ormerod; "troll life was there, underground, underneath the real Norway."

Ormerod has researched the Norwegian background carefully, and included a touch of folk decoration, a kind of swirly painting known as "rosemaling". A sphinx could not be omitted from the Egyptian sequence, even though it appears for only a matter of minutes. The real and fantastic are brought neatly together when the horse on which Peer and Amira gallop across the desert is a life-size version of the wooden,

wheeled, barrel-chested toy in Peer's home in an earlier scene.

Ormerod has worked closely with Donnellan on numerous Cheek by Jowl productions — they are co-artistic directors — and, last year, on *Fuente Ovejuna* at the National. They met at Cambridge, where Ormerod read law before studying design at the Wimbledon School of Art. His role is more than that of the conventional designer; he takes part in all discussions.

He shares Donnellan's belief in encouraging actors to seek their own solutions. Then order is imposed on these by director and designer. Thus, the cast found themselves making the pig on which Peer rides. A huge green, fibre-glass pig's head, complete with hairy ears, is carried by actors who become its "body". But some decisions had to be made in advance: the sphinx, and a hut substantial enough to be a holiday chalet, took some building.

"A designer's work should be fairly invisible, obedient to the play," says Ormerod. "Its effects build up with the play. I'm suspicious of the kind of set which elicits applause when the curtain opens. But *coup de théâtre*? The more the merrier!"

● *Peer Gynt* opens at the Olivier Theatre next Wednesday



In the hall of the Mountain King: Nick Ormerod, with his creations

## Trapped in Moscow's rat-holes

THEATRE  
Benedict Nightingale  
Exchange  
Vaudeville

Call it the Manhattan phenomenon, taken to extremes. If you cram rats into a tiny cage, they will snap and try to eat each other. Slot too many humans into too small a flat and, especially if some are the others' in-laws, they develop distinctly rodent habits.

But not even in New York's high-rise are the pressures to damaging as in modern Moscow, the setting of Yuri Trifonov's splendidly observant play. That is why the wife at its centre is so desperate to expand her family's 18 square metres. And that is why the title has a double meaning. Gripped by the territorial imperative, people will exchange consciences for space.

Tanya McCutcheon's set proclaims the problem. On half of the stage there is barely room for the chairs that must be perched on the desk

when the sofa becomes a bed. Since Viktor's family are a serenely high-minded lot, and Lena's are defiantly acquisitive, their gatherings tend to resemble, as Michael Frayn's vivid translation puts it, "a water polo match in which the players kick each other under the surface". Even the mortal sickness of Viktor's mother does not prevent their polarization.

When the sofa becomes a bed, another duet, Mazzocchi's moving lament "Piagnete occhi, piagnete" (Tessa Bonner and Susan Hemingway), was somewhat compromised by Hemingway's alarming tendency to sing sharp.

Such irritations were rendered irrelevant, however, in the face of the fine performance of Carissimi's celebrated oratorio "Jephite", which ended the concert. Here the group were united by this composer's ability to convey the breadth of human feeling as joy turns to despair.

Janet Corwell, in particular, made a magnificent contribution as the daughter, delivering her final lament with absolute control, even at this slow pace and in the exquisitely hushed dynamics of her closing phrases. The singers responded aptly in the final chorus, making the utmost of Carissimi's powerful, clashing harmonies — sending a shiver down the spine as they stretched the music as far as it could possibly go.

The same composer's gentle "Rimanti in pace horai", sung sweetly by Janet Corwell and Angus Smith, made an appealing contrast, though the effect of

flicked the Prokofiev: an inability to turn expressive corners fast enough, together with a certain lack of distinction between foreground and background. But there were many passages too, that displayed true finesse, especially in the slower meditative section.

Chopin's Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, Op 22, brought the best playing of all. The work was one of Chopin's last big display pieces, and its extrovert, exhibitionistic utterances are juxtaposed, unusually but tellingly, with the private, introspective mode that was to become familiar in the latter years of his life. It was Miss Zaritskaya's achievement that she was able to mediate effectively between those dual facades.

Barry Millington  
Irina Zaritskaya  
Purcell Room

## Jeremy Kingston

Uncle Vanya  
Harrogate

A generation ago, Astrov's distaste against a stagnating countryside and a sullen population was taken as a comment on the Tsarist days, so it is a nice irony that today we can see nothing has changed for the better since Chekhov's day.

From his excellent company, Manley has drawn performances that show, above anything else, the characters' agonized familiarity. They know each others' habits until they could scream. This is particularly true of Jonathan Bate's dowdy Vanya, shambling like an old performing bear, mourning his lost youth in groans reminiscent of Paul Scofield.

Alexander Matthey's Sonya

shows a marvellously clear and touching awareness of the character, her sudden glances, the ungainly trudge. In a striking piece of direction she hands pieces of bread to Astrov (Roger Delves-Broughton), the man she validly loves, and when he speaks glowingly of her old nanny, she passes him knifeful after knifeful of butter, yearning to be his nanny.

Again, when Manley contrives to bring three women fussing around the chair-bound Serebryakov, we see enacted what the dialogue alone does not establish: that this dreadful old tyrant, played by Geoffrey Banks like a sort of Erich Hoeckecker, really does attract the ladies.

Mame's version is serviceable, though "free loaders" jars, but the praise heaped on it in America says more about the faults of its insipid predecessors. Over here, Frayn's translation leads the field.

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## GARDENING

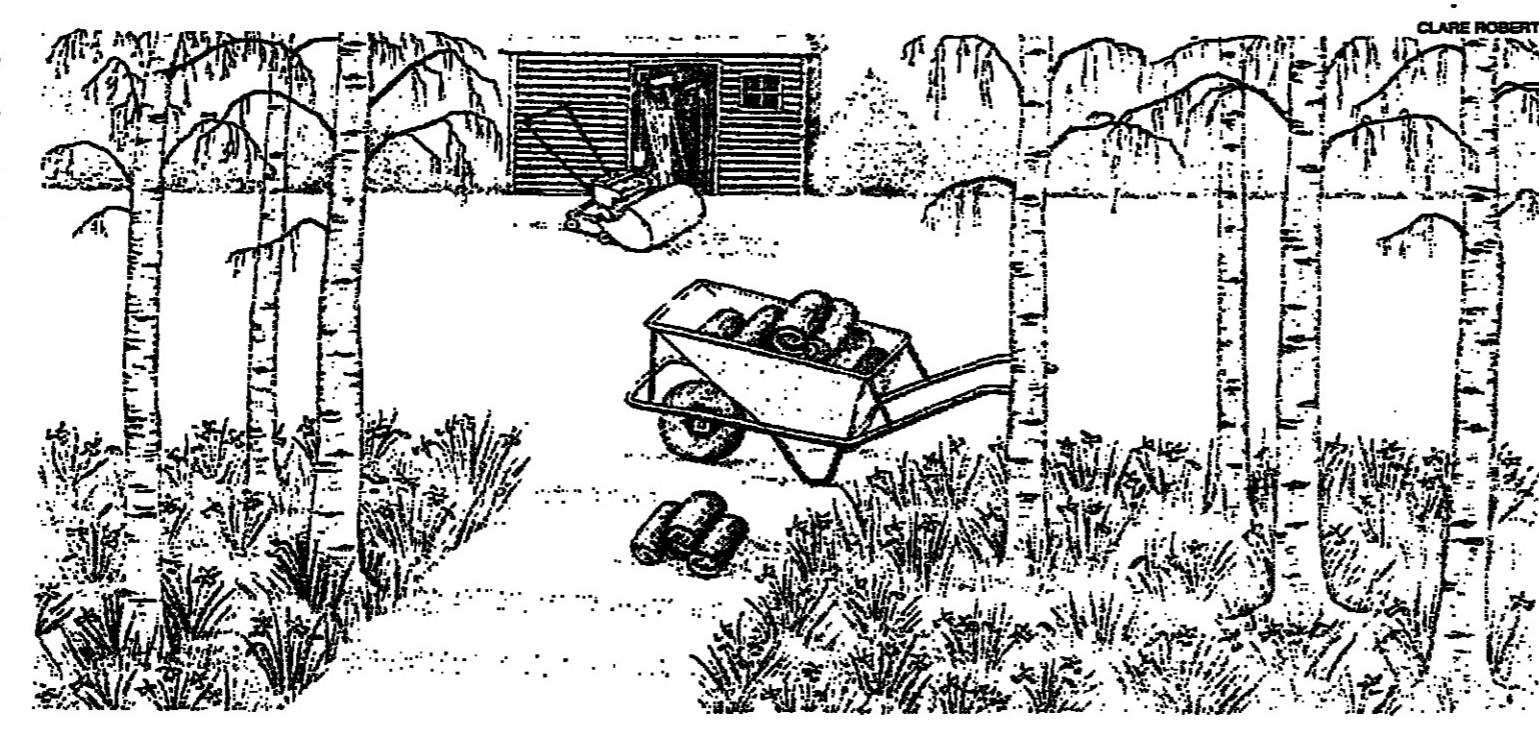
# Advice for the love-lawn

The mild winter and recent storms mean that lawns need special attention.  
Francesca Greenoak reports

**E**n gland's pleasant land is so green partly because of the natural disposition of grass to grow verdantly in this climate. Grass is generally reckoned to grow for about nine months of the year, and in mild years such as this, unchecked by cold weather, it hardly stops. But although this is welcomed by grazing animals, the gardener, whose mind turns to the long grind of mowing machines, edgers and trimmers, is less enthusiastic.

This season, mowing machine manufacturers are attempting to make the chore less tedious, providing the customer with powered mowers with electronic ignition and handles finished to the same standard as car steering wheels. Yet, even with trimming, lawn mowers have a long way to go before they are as attractive as a Ferrari.

Good news for this year is that the close-cut lawns browned to a crisp in last year's hot, dry summer are back in the green. Some, of course,



are still under water, but when it recedes they should be fine if they are not trampled before they have dried out. The water-meadows of past days, flooded annually by low-banked rivers, provided the most fertile grassland.

Many gardeners in Britain need to do considerable repairs to their lawns in the wake of the gales and storms. To repair damaged path and bed edges, cut out a rectangular turf with a sharp spade, slice underneath, and turn the whole turf round so that the damaged edges fit inwards, giving a sharp, clean outer edge. Snug the turf into place and, if necessary, sprinkle a little grass seed and soil over the damaged bit.

If a large area is damaged it may be better to re-turf. It is important to select grass of the right standard. Turf sold as meadow grass will not bring you a swath of wild flowers, but couch grass, dock and tufts. At the other end of the scale, velvety, fine-leaved turf will not stand up to family use. You can probably find a local company, but it's worth consulting Rowlawn, an enterprise which has a reputation for excellence in purpose-grown grass turves (consult Yellow Pages or telephone 0904 85661 for stockists). These thin, lightweight carpet rolls come in several categories, the most popular of

which is the all-purpose Medallion. Turfing is a quick, easy (and comparatively expensive) way to make a new lawn, but don't be misled into thinking that you can skip the preparation. Whether you are seeding or turfing, the ground should be weeded, stones should be removed and it should be dug over to a depth of about six inches, then "heeled" (walk over it, treading down with your heels), then raked. Heeling, raking and levelling should be done several times before the seed is sown or the turf laid. The lawn must then be kept damp for several weeks, until it is growing strongly. Seed also comes in several categories. The grass-seed boxes that are specially perforated to scatter evenly are useful for beginners.

Your lawn mower rarely seems to be the right one to suit you or your lawn — usually because it was bought in haste when its predecessor broke down. If possible, consult the mower literature before purchase. Most companies give clear advice about the mower needed for different sizes and types of lawn. Small, independent companies are usually better than larger stores if you require guidance, and this year some are providing a "test-drive" facility on the more expensive Qualcast mowers (0332 760220 for details).

The first cut of the year should be done with blades set high (about 2in/5cm) on dry grass, followed by raking, weeding and feeding. Then it's up to you to choose between a labour-intensive manicure or a neat cropping. Research has shown that the healthiest procedure for a lawn is to maintain the grass at just more than 1in/2.4cm and mow whenever necessary — it may be twice a week if it's growing fast, or once a month if it's hot and dry. The sprinkle of mowings (too small to be untidy)

should be left to serve as a lawn fertilizer. Those with little time to spare or who value naturalized bulbs and flowers in the grass could consider close-mowing only a small area of the lawn and paths, while letting other grass grow and mowing it perhaps once or twice after the flowers have died back. This is attractive during spring and summer and in the early autumn the whole area should be thoroughly mowed to make it tidy for the winter.

## GARDEN NEWS

"A Symposium of American Garden History," on April 21 at the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (9.30am-4.30pm), promises to be one of this year's prominent garden events. Some of the most exciting gardens in the world are being made in North America, drawing on the American and European traditions and talents, and looking to the ecology of particular regions, with creative use of the native flora. For many years the flow of ideas has been one-way from Europe to the United States, and it is only recently that we have become aware of the renaissance in planting and design across the Atlantic. This first major symposium (arranged

by Penelope Hobhouse for the Garden History Society) should introduce these ideas to a wider public.

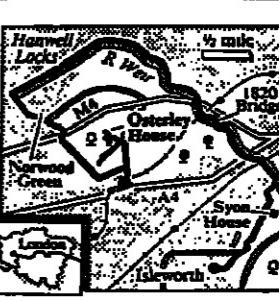
Some of the most knowledgeable exponents of the art of American gardening, including Elizabeth McLean, Mac Griswold and Francis Cabot, will be speaking. The symposium will be opened by Professor Gillian Prance, director of Kew. The day's activities represent remarkably good value at £20 a ticket (including refreshments/packed lunch), so it is probably wise to book now. Send cheque and SAE to Geoffrey Evans, GHS, The Orchard, Pollards Hill, Limpfield, Oxsted, Surrey RH8 0QX.

## WEEKEND WALK

The landscape of west London (or rather Middlesex) is a curious amalgam of suburbia-surrounded villages and intermittent countryside that consists largely of preserved parkland and paddocks and, here and there, land with things actually growing on it. This walk is a combination of these elements with a fair amount of water thrown in.

Start in South Street, Isleworth, heading east for Lower Square. Head north up Church Street past the Thames-side pub, The London Apprentice, and the mostly modern parish church with its medieval tower. Curve round and then turn right into Syon Park. The house appears to be 19th-century but conceals earlier work. Head out between high brick walls to London Road and turn right, then left just before the bridge onto the towpath of the Grand Union Canal at Brentford Dock.

Follow the towpath north, eventually crossing it by a cast-iron bridge of 1820. The path continues on the far bank of the canal, meandering along as this stretch is the canalized River Brent. At Hanwell Locks the river turns northeast and the canal climbs west through a spectacular flight of six locks. Beyond these at Three Bridges the canal



crosses a railway line and is crossed by a road.

The canal heads south-west for a mile. At The Lamb climb to the road and turn left onto the concrete bridge over the canal. Follow Norwood Road to Norwood Green, cross the green and head down Osterley Lane into pony-paddock country. Round a bend, turn right at six iron posts onto a footpath which leads over the M4, then south-east. This path eventually veers left with an old brick wall on the right. Just before the road, bear left at a sign reading "Public Footpath to Wyke Green". This path reaches the avenue to Osterley Park (National Trust). Walk up the avenue to visit the house. Retrace your steps down the avenue and head for Osterley Underground station.

Martin Andrew

## WEATHER EYE

During mild winters, anyone scrutinizing the temperatures from around the world on the back page of *The Times* could easily make the wrong impression. In recent weeks it has been hard to find a negative sign indicating daytime temperatures below freezing among the selection of cities in mid-latitudes of the northern hemisphere.

This is in marked contrast to cold winters when European and North American cities provide temperatures well below freezing for weeks on end. So it might seem reasonable to conclude that the whole of the northern hemisphere is warm when we have a mild winter, and cold when we have a cold winter. This is not the case.

Average northern hemisphere temperatures vary at most by a few tenths of a degree Celsius from winter to winter, compared with fluctuations of more than 5°C that can occur in Europe or

Japan.

The most dramatic examples of this phenomenon were the severe winters of 1963 and 1979 when there were many reports of exceptional cold around the hemisphere. But there is little news value in the current exceptionally mild winter being compensated by extreme cold and record snowfalls in Alaska — after all, we expect it to be cold and snowy there.

W. J. Burroughs

## WEEKEND TIPS

- Add compost and an all-round fertilizer to herbaceous beds and borders.
- Sow summer cauliflower under glass — transplant in five to seven weeks.
- Re-pot fuchsias and geranium cuttings which have been overwintered and pinch out tips (delay for two to three weeks in cold areas).
- Take cuttings from conifers — many named kinds of juniper, cypress, cryptomeria and thuja root quite easily if cut through a node (swelling) in the stem and dipped in rooting hormone.
- Sow broad beans and early carrots *in situ* in mild areas. Protect with cloches or polypropylene fleece in colder places.

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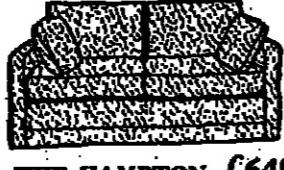
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THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

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PERMA CLEAR has been a fast show stopper at exhibitions, demonstrations etc. in London, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Australia, office shop, caravans etc etc—in fact all glass, mirrors, tiles. An equivalent maintenance treatment could cost around £150. Just one bottle of PERMA CLEAR is enough to coat a window—apply once and forget it. For 2 years. Apply to your car windows and mirrors—your clear vision regardless of weather conditions, delivery 14/21 days.

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## SHOPPING

# The future is looking great

Nicole Swengley  
reports on the  
advances being  
made in home  
entertainment  
via television

**T**levision is turning homes into mini cinemas, and, with video recorders, cameras, teletext, computers and satellite and cable services all vying for space on our screens, it is hardly surprising that the sets themselves have changed to cope with the new technology.

Anyone with a 10-year-old set will find that almost everything has changed. Stereo sound has been with us since 1981, and the new types of tubes built into advanced sets since the mid-Eighties mean that pictures stay sharp right into the corners. Since 1986, television has also been the medium for rapid information transmission via computer modem/telephone.

More changes are on the way. With the introduction of Nicam broadcast transmissions last year, the stereo sound quality of sets equipped to receive it has greatly improved. And widescreen cinema-calibre pictures will match sound in terms of performance when High Definition Television (HDTV) arrives later in the decade.

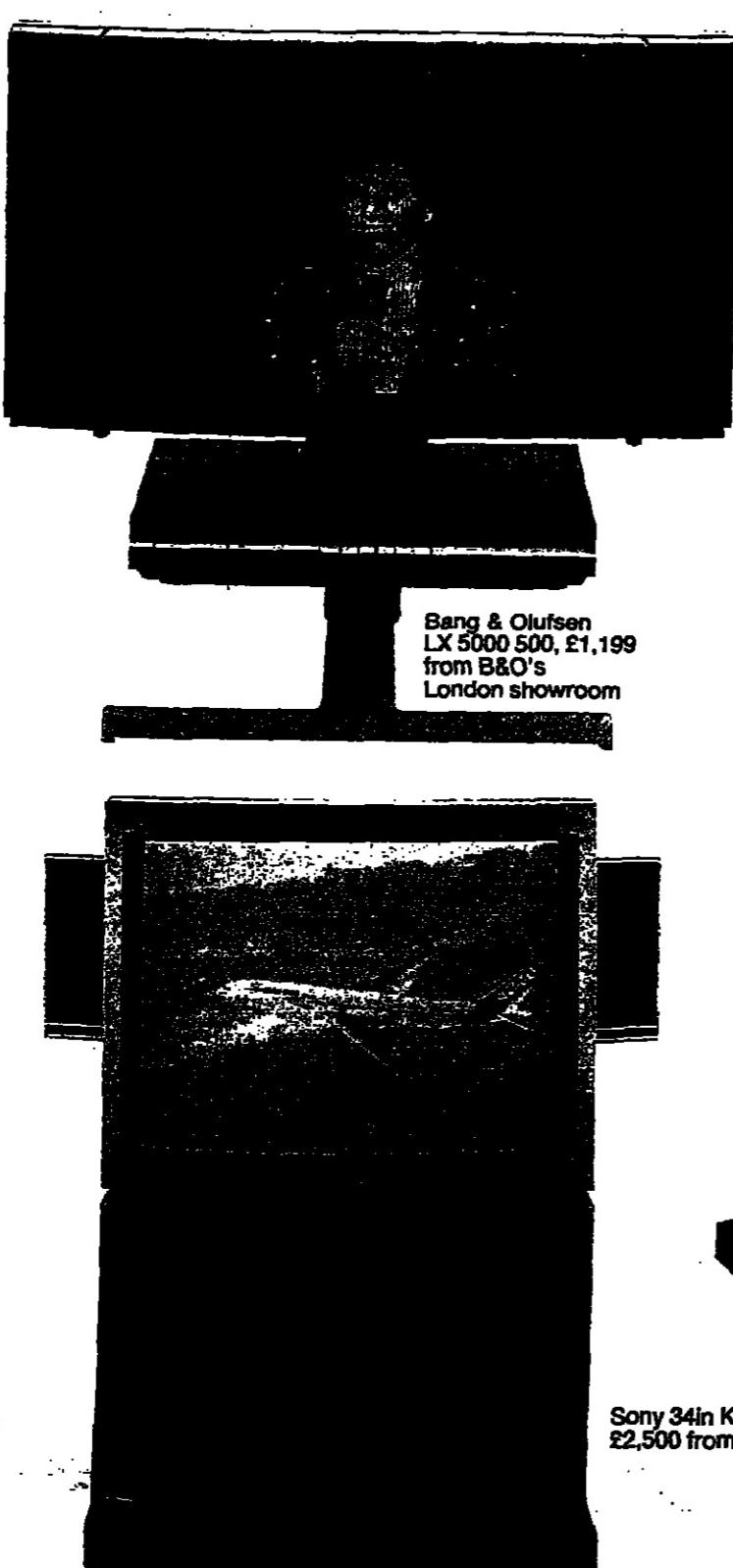
Indications are that by the late Nineties we will follow the American lead, with built-in television sets becoming the centre of a comprehensive home entertainment system.

**S**o far, Bang & Olufsen's Beolink system offers the most progressive advances in this respect. But, by the end of the decade, a "smart" system will pre-set linked equipment such as television screens, videos, radios, lighting, central heating, security systems, alarm clocks, microwave ovens and cookers. Sony says it is already developing the software.

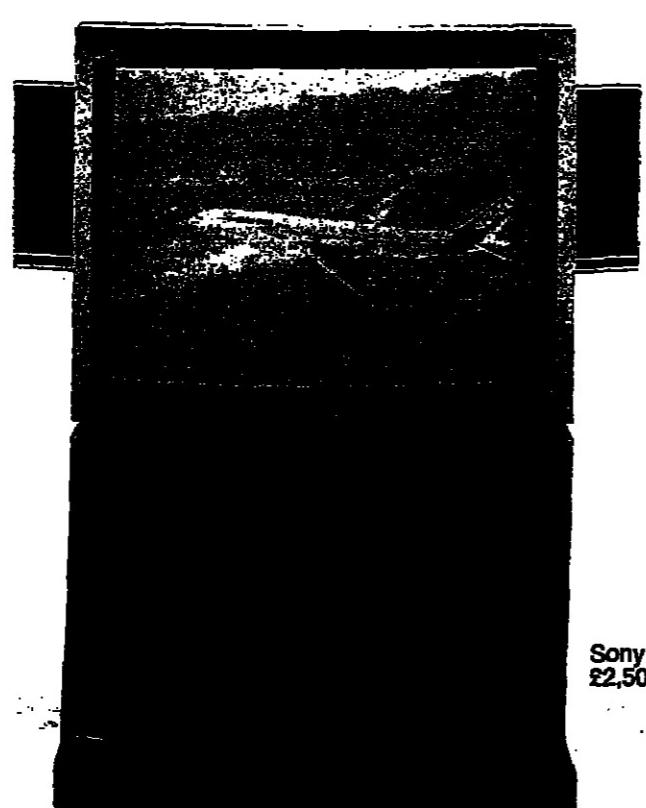
In the meantime, television screens are growing in size. In 1987 the average screen size was 21in, or 24in at the most. Anything larger, such as the huge 37in Mitsubishi in their chest-of-drawer-size cabinets, seemed to be of curiosity value only. But, over the past year, 27in and 28in models have become more popular.

The introduction of Sky Television, and Nicam transmissions by BBC and ITV networks, may be partly responsible for this growth in screen size. Nicam-equipped television sets can decode the digital transmissions which can then be played through the set's own speakers, if they are good enough, or through separate hi-fi speakers. The quality of this sound has been likened to that of compact discs.

Among the most sophisticated, and most expensive, of these new "home cinema" television sets are those by Loewe, the leading West German manufacturer, which is partly owned by BMW. Loewe's Art 95 Sat is its top model, equipped with integral tuner for direct satellite reception and Nicam stereo sound. With a big 37in screen it is capable of reproducing pictures 70 per cent larger than standard television sets. A video recorder tucks out of



Bang & Olufsen  
LX 5000 500, £1,199  
from B&O's  
London showroom



Sony 34in KV D3412,  
£2,500 from LeSet

sight behind a front cover while a 70-watt stereo hi-fi system is coupled with two-way integral speakers for exceptional sound quality.

This "intelligent" television set has an automatic switch-off device, which operates after transmission slowdown, and an electronic lock, which can be used to stop children watching certain programmes.

Because of its giant size (90cm wide x 107cm high x 68.5cm deep) and weight (about 67lb), the set comes on wheels for easier manoeuvrability, even so it is unwieldy and extremely heavy. This state-of-the-art set costs £2,995 at LeSet, which also offers the Loewe Art 82, £1,995, and Art 1, £995, at its outlets at 115 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-581 3676) and Whiteleys of Bayswater, London W2 (01-229 4028).

Also on sale is a 37in model by Grundig, £2,800, Nordmende's 29in Freestyle, £1,295, and a 37in set by Mitsubishi. The shop also stocks the Sony 34in, a rather rare model, which has a top quality sound system and incorporates the technology to double the amount of scans per second to reduce picture flicker.

With prices like these, most shoppers seek some reassurance before they splash out on

a new television set. So, last autumn, Bang & Olufsen opened its first UK showroom at 56 South Molton Street, London W1 (01-355 1285), to demonstrate its range, along with a studio which shows how B&O equipment can be linked together by remote control, allowing users the freedom to enjoy it throughout the home.

This Beolink system covers four rooms as standard, but can be expanded to another 12. All that is needed in each room is a pair of speakers, a link unit, a relay unit and a video recorder.

As far as set design is concerned, prizes have already been awarded to Finlux by the Finnish Arts & Crafts Society. Certainly the Finlux Sky Design 29in Vario has one of the more attractive television set profiles. And, thanks to its colour separation circuit, screen colours are particularly sharp and do not intermix as they can on some other sets.

In addition to the normal two-way bass loudspeakers, the set can be installed, if required, with two separate, two-way video-band loudspeakers to match the quality of sound reproduction to personal tastes. It costs £949 (optional speakers, £66, and stand, £139) from Finlux at 87 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (01-930 6487).

**A**t the heart of the system is a wall-mounted link unit, a little smaller than an audio cassette, which is sensitive to infra-red rays from the remote control and passes instructions to the central system: the panel also accepts commands by touch.

Costs for this futuristic system start at £175, plus installation, providing you already have B&O equipment which can be linked up. Costs climb with tailor-made requirements and the purchase of any B&O's new hi-fi or audio equipment to incorporate into the system. Two of B&O's large-screen television sets,

both of which have Nicam and computer-controlled text, merit special mention.

The Beovision 28in MX 5000, £1,085, stands on an optional automatic turntable, £269, which whizzes round to face the direction of the remote controller.

The LX 5000 500, £1,199,

B&O's latest model, offers

video programming via tele-

text using the remote control

handset - the simplest way yet devised to pre-set a video recorder.

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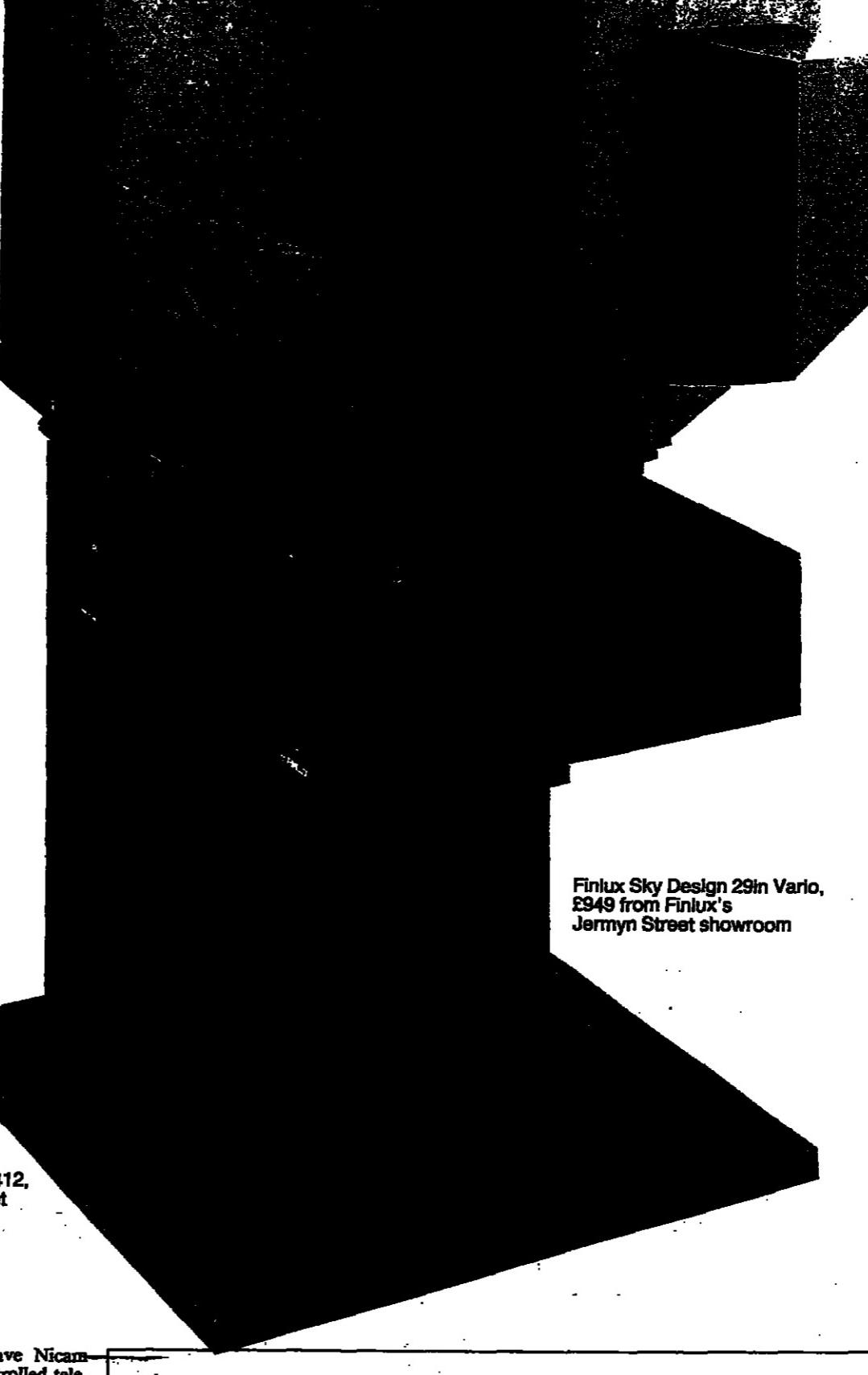
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Finlux Sky Design 29in Vario,  
£949 from Finlux's  
Jermyn Street showroom

## TV-SPEAK

• Digital technology: Signals are converted into numbers so that picture and sound information can be calculated, stored and reproduced without loss of quality. Picture quality is continually monitored and automatically adjusted, remaining constant throughout the television set's life.

• Nicam (Near Instantaneous compounding audio multiplexing): Television sets equipped with this offer near-CD quality sound. Stereo sound means that foreign films transmitted in two-channel sound can be heard in the original or the dubbed version. Some sets even have separate speakers.

• PFT (Flatter, squarer tube): This extends the picture into the corners of the screen, offering a wider viewing area. Distortion is reduced and reflections are cut out.

• Multi-standard set: The different colour transmission systems abroad from other countries can be accepted by the television set.

• Digital link: This allows the coupling of a television video programme from a video recorder, a television set located in a different room.

## THE WEEK AHEAD



## GALLERIES

DAVID LEE

**MARIO ROSSI:** New canvases making use of iron rust and gold dust by one of the highly praised Glasgow School of young artists. Anderson O'Day Fine Art, London W11 (01-221 7592). From Thurs.

**TRANSFORMATION: THE LEGACY OF AUTHORITY:** Works by 21 artists from Moscow selected by the Artists' Union and evoking the radical stylistic changes of the *Glasnost* period. MacLaurin Art Gallery, Alloway, Ayr (0292-43708). From today.

**LANDSCAPES FROM A HIGH LATITUDE:** The first exhibition in this country of Icelandic art from 1905-1989. Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 4141). From Tues.

Academic study: Miss Negreanu.

**A** Portrait of Miss Sérina Negreanu (above), of 1932, is included in a new exhibition of paintings and drawings by English artist Thomas Eustace Lowinsky (1892-1947). A superb academic study of a hired Romanian model, it shows the artist to be a consummate classical draughtsman. It comes as no surprise to learn that Lowinsky was trained at the Slade School by that legendary martinet of drawing classes, Henry Tonks. Much of Lowinsky's freedom as an artist derived from his substantial private means. He was a banker's son and married an even richer banker's daughter. But, being shy and modest owing to dyslexia, he never promoted his own work, which tended to be Biblical, medieval and mythological in subject, and Pre-Raphaelite in style. He was an old-fashioned admirer of well-crafted beautiful things and showed acute connoisseurship in making his famous collection of British drawing. Artistically, he had nothing to prove so he could afford to be out of step with dominant fashions. And naturally his reputation has suffered as a result. An extensive survey of his work starts on Wednesday at the Tate Gallery, London SW1 (01-821 1313).

## BROADCASTING

**NIGHTINGALES:** Robert Lindsay, David Threlfall and James Ellis as three ineffectual night security guards in a new situation comedy by Paul (A Kind of Living) Makin. Channel 4, Tues, 10.30pm.

**HIGH HOPES (1988):** Mike Leigh's second cinema film — a ruthless satire about Thatcher's Britain as reflected in three London families. Channel 4, Thurs, 9.30-11.35pm.

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD:** Ian Holm plays the choirmaster and opium-addict John Jasper in a five-part adaptation of Dickens's unfinished novel, plus Leon Garfield's "completion". Radio 4, Fri, 3-4pm.



Promising Adams (below) as Octavius.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**KRYN TACONIS — PHOTOJOURNALIST:** Exhibition of 35 years of the work of this Dutch born photographer, the earliest of which covers the German occupation of Amsterdam from 1940-45. Canada House Cultural Centre, London SW1 (01-829 9492), Thurs-Mar 31.

**OWEN LOGAN — MOROCCO:** Refreshing travelogue style pictures by young Scottish photographer who retains an attachment to, and sympathy with, the humanity of his subject. Tom Hopkinson Room, The Photographers' Gallery, London, WC2 (01-831 1772). Until 31 Mar.

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD:** Ian Holm plays the choirmaster and opium-addict John Jasper in a five-part adaptation of Dickens's unfinished novel, plus Leon Garfield's "completion". Radio 4, Fri, 3-4pm.



Disillusionment: embittered paraplegic Vietnam veteran Ron (Tom Cruise, right) meets up with a fellow victim, Charlie (Willem Dafoe, left)

## OPERA

HILARY FINCH

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** Colourful revival of *Don Pasquale* dominates the week with Eric Garrett taking over the title role on Thurs. (Paolo Montarsolo tonight and Tues.) Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086).

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA:** Jonathan Miller's chic 1920s style *Mikado* is back tonight Tues and Fri. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-886 3161).

**SCOTTISH OPERA:** This afternoon revival of *Die Fledermaus* on Wed the company's powerful double bill of *Bluebeard* and *Oedipus Rex*. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234).

**PROMISING ADAMS:** Donald Adams is Baron Ochs, and it is worth listening out for Amanda Root, a young singer already jealously sought by Covent Garden, who will be taking the role of Sophie. The production has been planned on a grand and traditional scale. Cari Friedrich Oberle's original designs will still be used, and the opera will be sung in English. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), from Thursday.

**A** gatha Christie Limited will be presenting Welsh National Opera's new production of Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* which opens at the New Theatre, Cardiff this week. The opera, a story of love and the passing of youth, was a favourite of the author and the event commemorates the 100th anniversary of her birth. Following the tragically premature death of director Goran Jarvet, the production will be by Munich-born Wolfgang Weber. He is currently working on a new *Lohengrin* for the Vienna Staatsoper where he is head of productions, but he is something of a Strauss man himself with the Salzburg world premiere of *Esel Schäfer* behind him as well as an *Elektra* for the Met. The casting of *Der Rosenkavalier* looks promising musically: Sir Charles Mackerras, who has already been at the helm for recent musically outstanding performances of Welsh National's *Saloine* and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, will be conducting. Rita Cullis is the Marschallin, Donald Adams is Baron Ochs, and it is worth listening out for Amanda Root, a young singer already jealously sought by Covent Garden, who will be taking the role of Sophie. The production has been planned on a grand and traditional scale. Cari Friedrich Oberle's original designs will still be used, and the opera will be sung in English. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), from Thursday.

## BRIDGE

**Y**ou are playing against Omar Sharif, who has just gone down in a rather unlucky slam. It seems a normal result — until you quietly suggest that he could have made it by a superior line of play. His face crumples, for he knows you are right.

Against two ranking experts, you have landed an impossible contract by means of a brilliant deception. Nothing is said, but they eye you with a new respect.

Wishful, these dreams of glory, for although few things are sweeter than confounding the experts, it is confoundingly difficult to do so. But "difficult" implies "not impossible", as Joan Burgess, a Nottingham housewife, showed when she beat the West cards below:

Dealer East. Love all.

♦ K8754  
♦ KQ642  
♦ AQ2  
♦ Q93  
♦ KQ883  
♦ K9109  
♦ KJ98  
♦ K876  
♦ J102  
♦ A10764  
♦ J103

W N E S

Burgess 12 1 No 1NT No 20 No 44 No No No

South was Sally Horton, also of Nottingham, a world grandmaster who has twice won the women's world team championship. Her bid of two spades was made in the expectation that North, for his takeout double, held length in the major suits.

The hand was played in the Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest, with more than 80,000 competitors. It won for

Considering that South had responded only tardily to his double, North's raise to game was a gamble. But the contract could have been made by taking advantage of the "magic" trump situation: with the bare Q-9 well placed, South could have held her losses in this suit to one trick.

West, the heroine of this story, led the king of diamonds, taken by the ace as dummy discarded a club. Hoping to establish the dummy hand, South led a heart to the king and a low heart back.

Suppose that East is allowed to hold this trick, which of course is what would normally happen. East returns a diamond, ruffed in dummy. Declarer now ruffs a heart in her own hand with the 2 of trumps, confident that West, who still has the ace of hearts, will be unable to overruff.

South continues by leading the jack of trumps, pinning the dummy hand high except for the ace of trumps and a club loser.

In real life the play went differently. When the second round of hearts was led from the table, West played the ace on her partner's jack, establishing dummy's suit!

West returned a diamond for dummy to ruff and declarer led a heart from dummy. Convinced that a low ruff would fail, she ruffed with the 10. Now the contract could not be made, as there was no way to avoid losing two trump tricks and a club.

The hand was played in the Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest, with more than 80,000 competitors. It won for

Albert Dorner

Miss Burgess a World Bridge Federation award for outstanding play.

West's play of the ace of hearts was both daring and unusual, but it arises from a simple rule that has a very wide application. As a defender, you should play a card that you are known or are presumed to hold whenever you can do so without cost. The advantage is obvious in this common situation:

K4  
N 105 W E 873 S A862

Declarer leads the 2 from hand and finesses the jack. When he continues with the king, West must not fail to drop the queen, the card he is known to hold. On the third round declarer will have to decide whether to finesse the 9 or play for the drop. If the queen is not played under the king, he has no problem.

To play the right card in the situation below should be routine:

A054  
N K95 W 1072 S 5  
83

South, who is planning a crossruff, successfully finesses the queen and lays down the ace. West must play the king, otherwise South can ruff low with impunity on the next round.

Mrs Burgess's award-winning play was based on just the same principle as these examples.

**A**s Estonia begins to free itself from years of subordination to the Soviet system, it is welcome to see that its national chess hero, Iwan Elvest, is discovering his true chess identity.

In the Belgrade tournament of November last year, Elvest had already turned in an excellent performance, sharing second prize with Timman behind a rampant Kasparov. Then, at the tournament in the Italian town of Reggio Emilia over the turn of the year, the Estonian Grandmaster clocked up a truly Kasparovian result, finishing no less than one and a half points ahead of the mighty Karpov.

The full results are below. It is rare that a tournament winner can succeed without a little luck. In the following game the gods smiled on Elvest just as his Icelandic opponent seemed within reach of the haven of the draw.

White: Iwan Elvest; Black: Margeir Petursson. Queen's Gambit Declined, Slav Defence.

Black should now play 43...Ne6. Instead he falls into a diabolical trap which costs him a piece:

43...Rd4 44 Rxd4 Rxe5  
45 Rxf4 46 Rxd4+ Re5  
47 Rxe5 Rf5  
48 Rxf5 Rg5  
49 Rxe5 Rg4  
50 Rxf5 Rg3  
51 Rxe5 Rg2  
52 Rxf5 Rg1  
53 Rxe5 Rg0  
54 Rxf5 Rg1  
55 Rxe5 Rg0  
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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24 1990

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## Watching for the approach of the storm

**David Gower**

The former England captain with his first dispatch for The Times from the West Indies

**Kingston**  
"Welcome to the Caribbean" was the most instantaneous message at Miami airport. Granted I was yet to reach Caribbean territory itself, but as I was released from the excellent ministrations of British Airways, things started to change somewhat. Various arrangements to the schedule were called for and Air Jamaica was working on Caribbean flexi-time, which meant a certain reluctance to bring the aircraft up from Kingston to take us back down there.

But at least when we did manage to take to the air again, the smiles were there to absorb the frustra-

tion, and there was also recognition at the destination from immigration, customs, and, most important, from the fellow delegated by the Jamaican Cricket Association to pick me up and ferry me to the hotel.

He had at least managed to

hang on until 2 in the morning, though whether it was me or the packet containing the balls for the Test match that was more important we shall never know.

The mood in the camp smacked very much of the lull before the storm. Most of the players practised on Thursday, but those that had earned a respite through their exertions in the Jamaica match – something familiar about all that – and also seemed suitably relaxed through the rest of the day by the hotel pool. The opposition, too, seemed relatively unconcerned about the imminent start of hostilities, with Richie Richardson, their most in-form batsmen of the

moment, also showing good form on the tennis court.

As ever, this apparent nonchalance conceals the team's growing concentration on the task ahead. By yesterday, that awareness was heightened by the proximity of the match. Talk inevitably centred on the West Indian pace attack, both Gooch and Lamb prepared to give genuine respect to the genuine pace of Ian Bishop, who, Malcolm Marshall happily conceded, is going to be the quickest of the lot this time around. With Patterson and either Walsh or Moseley to complete the usual four-ball, the situation remains quite familiar.

My worry is that the England squad has not had enough of a sharpener in the build-up to this Test. Allan Lamb was concerned

that the quickest bowling he had faced was in practice, having yet to deal with a genuine bouncer in the middle. As is always true on tour, at least one or two of the batsmen selected to play will not have much form to take in with them.

Word has it that the pitch will not be the demon that breathed fire here four years ago, and it certainly looks a better wicket without the grassy muddles that were present last time round. Mind you, it is always wrong to judge such matters too early.

Graham Gooch and his men must only think about all that on the morning of the match, and adapt to whatever conditions emerge. Time spent worrying about a pitch is generally wasted and they must just be conjuring up as many positive thoughts as they can.

Graham, for instance, can look back nine years to his great 153 against Holding, Croft, Garner and Marshall, and of course to 200-odd only the other day. And as a team they must rely on the atmosphere and atmosphere of a Test match to lift themselves, as appeared to happen in the field at Trinidad in the opening attempt at international cricket on this tour.

## England prepare for Test of nerve

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent

The first morning of every Test series brings with it frayed nerves and a special thrill of anticipation. This one applies a heavier dose of emotion. Indeed, to be an Englishman in Jamaica this morning is to feel nothing more strongly than fear.

Graham Gooch's players would not, publicly, pitch it quite so strong, though any who refuse to admit to a degree of apprehension have either forgotten what day it is or have acquired the gift of self-delusion.

It is those of us who are watching, detached from the single-mindedness of the team room, who will feel the acute fear – a fear for the physical and mental health of players entering an unforgiving trial of character and a fear for the damage these next two months could inflict on an English game which has already been in the casualty ward, condition critical, for some little while.

This is a cruelly timed tour which England, desperate for remedies and rehabilitation, neither wanted nor needed. Obliged to go through with it, on the dubious pretexts of political diplomacy and cricketing courage, England today line up at the tapes for a contest which, pessimistically, has all the competitive potential of Desert Orchid taking on a selling-plated.

Tetley's, the Yorkshire brewery, yesterday pledged £160,000 to the England team. All they have to do is win the series. The offer could have been doubled by even the most parsimonious financial advisor without outlandish risk.

When your current form reads one win in 25 Tests and when the opposition has beaten you 14 times in the last 15 starts it is hard to feel enthusiastic about beginning a new series on a ground of harsh and painful memories.

Sabina Park was the beginning and the end of England's



GRAHAM MORRIS

Line of attack: the five West Indies fast bowlers (from left), Marshall, Moseley, Walsh, Patterson, and Bishop, in readiness for the first Test match against England, which starts today

aspirations on their last Caribbean tour. Mike Gatting's hideous facial injury in the one day international was followed by a three-day Test defeat on a scandalously inadequate pitch. David Gower, now reporting this series alongside me, remembers it as the downturn of his first spell as captain; some small consolation is that only two of today's England team were there to remember it at all.

Even if this pitch has responded kindly to surgery, as reports and appearance would have us believe, England will need to play above themselves to achieve their priority of survival in this first of five Tests, sponsored by Cable and Wireless.

Their inexperience is an overwhelming factor. Nine of the England team will have fewer than 50 caps between them; the West Indians, discounting their elder statesmen Richards and Greenidge, aggregate well over 300.

The comparison is still starker among the seam bowlers. The West Indies' fearsome four have taken 523 wickets in 121 Tests; the England quartet totals 46 wickets in 100 fewer Tests.

Gooch simply must make runs consistently and this, attached to the heavy demands of captaincy, is a burden he will do remarkably well to carry. Lamb, the other previous tourist, is equally important but Smith, worryingly short of runs, and Larkins, full of runs but playing his first Test in nine years, remain unknown quantities in this environment.

Both Smith and Larkins have suffered out here from

battling on pitches far slower than they would like and although one would not suggest they are exactly looking forward to confronting Marshall and Bishop on something with genuine pace in it, their style of batting will undoubtedly be suited by it.

Rarer by far, are Alec Stewart and Nasser Hussain, close companions here and now likely to make their Test debuts together if England persist with the restrictive policy of fielding only four specialist bowlers, a policy which historically has no support and will now surely make England's task approximate even more closely to scaling a mountain in stilts.

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### TEST MATCH AVERAGES

#### West Indies – Batting and fielding

	M	INO	Runs	HS	100	50	Avg	Cplt
KLT Arthurton	5	8	105	37	—	—	23.75	2
CAB Best	4	1	78	35	—	—	4	1
PJL Dwyer	4	1	105	55	—	—	26.75	1
PJL Dwyer	5	28	229	55	14	10	20.85	5
C G Greenidge	15	282	223	17	34	48.12	50	1
D L Haynes	85	148	154	12	31	41.39	53	1
M D Marshall	66	84	128	92	22	18.02	25	1
B P Patterson	17	21	88	21*	—	8.50	2	1
IWA Richards	108	161	78	291	24	37.55	112	1
R J Richardson	78	30	194	10	12	24.11	58	1
C A Walsh	34	43	16	277	30	10.25	4	1

#### England – Batting and fielding

	M	INO	Runs	HS	100	50	Avg	Cplt
R J Bailey	1	2	45	43	—	—	23.00	4
D J Capel	11	18	0	233	96	—	21.67	4
P A DeFreitas	13	18	0	234	49	—	11.33	4
A R C Fraser	17	21	0	234	12	—	13.33	4
G A Gooch	79	132	4	4724	195	8	29.30	73
E E Hemmings	9	14	3	280	95	—	25.45	4
G C Greenidge	8	14	3	322	135	9	22.50	5
D E Moseley	57	104	2	322	122	12	32.00	42
W Larance	11	11	1	178	34	—	15.00	5
A J Lamb	30	30	0	14	3	—	7.00	1
R C Russell	7	12	3	406	128	1	24.53	77/4
G C Smellie	6	12	0	120	52	1	24.00	1
B A Smith	8	15	2	268	143	0	43.00	3

\* denotes not out

\*\* denotes not out

Compiled by Richard Lockwood

KLT Arthurton

FR Bishop

CG Greenidge

DL Haynes

MD Marshall

B P Patterson

IWA Richards

R J Richardson

C A Walsh

E A Moseley

G A Gooch

E E Hemmings

D E Moseley

W Larance

A J Lamb

R C Russell

G C Smellie

B A Smith

Balls Runs W

1226 626

12 1236

5 58

1 1

— 48.84

899 323

9 4 43

— 35.28

57108 523

9 12 12

— 52.81

242 22

4 21.24

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59.51

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— 23.00

1443 622

24 5-48

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## CRICKET: CONTROVERSIAL TOUR ENDS BUT THE WAR OF WORDS CONTINUES

**Captain's century revives Indians**

From Qamar Ahmed  
Auckland

An unbeaten century by Mohammad Azharuddin, the captain, hauled India out of a crisis to reach 316 for seven in response to New Zealand's 391 on the second day of the third final Test at Eden Park, Auckland, yesterday.

The Indian innings began badly when Wooker Ramam, Sanjay Manjrekar and Prabhakar were out for only 71.

A collapse seemed imminent but then Azharuddin with the help of Venkataran, Sanjay Manjrekar and Prabhakar were out for only 71.

Venkataran was soon into his stride, hitting some four drives off Madan, Morrison and Thomson. Azharuddin delighted the crowd with his well-timed drives through the covers and past mid-on, hitting three fours off Thomson in one over.

Tendulkar, the success of the second Test fell to Morrison for only five as the Indians set out to score briskly. Azharuddin was soon past his ninth Test century, reached in 114 balls with the aid of 13 boundaries. Azharuddin went to his 130, 18 fours.

Scoring slowed down briefly when Kanti Dev arrived. He and Azharuddin took 30 runs off two overs from Snedden and Thomson. They entombed the crowd with a partnership of 41 in only 29 balls.

**ENGLAND First Innings**  
T Franklin c Tendulkar b Wesson 4  
J Macheson c & b Ali 19  
A Jones c More b Prabhakar 19  
M Croce c More b Wesson 24  
M Greatbatch b Wesson 4  
R Higgs c & b Venkataran 1  
S Thomas c & b Kapil Dev 22  
R Hedges c & b Heward 67  
M Shandron c & b Prabhakar 12  
D Morrison not out 0  
Extras (b-8, n-4) 13  
Total (fall of wickets 1-8, 2-29, 3-28, 4-51, 5-64, 6-65, 7-131, 8-145)  
BOWLING: Kapil Dev 29-2-65-5; Prabhakar 25-2-65-5; Venkataran 11-1-95-3 (12 n.o); Snedden 21-4-73-1 (1 n.o); Thomson 13-3-88-1 (1 n.o, wicket).

**INDIA First Innings**  
W Raman c Franklin b Heward 8  
M Venkataran b Shandron 35  
S Manjrekar b Morrison 46  
D Venkataran c & b More 47  
M Azharuddin not out 130  
S Prabhakar c & b Morrison 12  
Gunatharan Singh c & b Thomson 18  
Kapil Dev c & b Hedges 22  
Kanti Dev c & b Heward 26  
Extras (b-1, n-8, w-1) 26  
Total (7 wickets) 316

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-15, 2-65, 3-71, 4-21, 5-64, 6-65, 7-131, 8-145  
**BOWLING:** Snedden 23-7-72 (4 n.o); Morrison 18.1-1-95-3 (12 n.o); Snedden 21-4-73-1 (1 n.o); Thomson 13-3-88-1 (1 n.o, wicket).

# South African split over Bacher deal to cut Gatting tour

From John Woodcock, Johannesburg

As Mike Gatting and his fellow travellers went separate ways from here yesterday, some back to England, some to the Cape, some to the Kruger National Park, there was evidence of a power struggle within the South African Cricket Union (SACU).

After a meeting on Thursday evening of the executive of the SACU, Ali Bacher, the managing director, for having "exceeded his mandate" in his negotiations with Krish Naidoo, the secretary of the NSC, out of which came the compromise whereby Gatting's tour was curtailed but the four one-day matches which survived went ahead free from protest.

Already peev'd at having their tour cut back, which seemed to them to smack more of capitulation than conciliation, the militant members of the SACU have now had it confirmed by Dr

Gatting, the more hawkish

**YORKSHIRE asked to censure Jarvis**

By Peter Ball

It would not be a Yorkshire Cricket Club annual meeting without an argument and one now seems certain this year, too. Derek Fatchett, Labour MP for Leeds Central, will ask today's AGM in Sheffield officially to condemn Paul Jarvis for taking part in the abortive unofficial tour of South Africa.

Fatchett, who describes himself as a member of long standing, although he has previously kept out of the club's labyrinthine politics, will also ask the club to insert a clause in players' contracts forbidding them from taking part in unofficial tours to South Africa in the future.

Other issues likely to raise a little heat will be the decision to replace Lord Mountgarret as president with Sir Leonard Hutton, the removal of the earl only being passed by 10 votes to 8 in committee, and a resolution calling for the reduction in size of the committee from 23 members to 16.

Managers have said the same thing before, but never, I fancy, more right wing than their

employers, are determined to resist any attempt to restrict their members' freedom to earn their money where they can.

And while cricketers' contracts only run from April to September, the clubs are virtually powerless to determine what happens for the rest of the year.

It is also highly unlikely that the members will support the motion. Yorkshire has never been famed for its liberalism and Sid Fielden, chairman of the club's private and public relations sub-committee, is sure from his discussions with members that there is widespread support for Gatting's right to go to South Africa.

There is, of course, little chance of any such action being taken. Even if the club wished to do so, the Professional Cricketers Association, an organization founded by one of their founders-members as "the only union more right wing than their

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From Andrew Lawrence  
Times Staff Writer

Their record shows that they have been beaten by the same team in the last two years. They have also lost to the same team in the last two years. They have also lost to the same team in the last two years.

Yet while the imperturbable Nigel Clough could prove the catalyst that carries Forest, the holders, into the Littlewoods Cup final, Coventry are hoping that Speedie will prove the undoing of Clough's senior's team during the second leg of the semi-final at Highfield Road tomorrow.

Coventry trail 2-1 from the first match when they were without Speedie, then serving a suspension incurred for a television fight with Bennett of Sunderland during a quarter-final tie at Roker Park.

John Sillett, the Coventry manager, is confident that Speedie will display a more positive side of his character in front of ITV cameras, not to mention a capacity to score goals inside the ground.

So strong is Sillett's conviction that Speedie will send sparks flying in the Nottingham penalty area, that he yesterday declared: "David is the man Forest will have to watch out for. He will pose them problems, so many that it will be a different game here, because they will have to stop him. There are not many people I would change a winning team for, but David is

**Livingstone with goals presuming**

By Chris Moore

A month ago Steve Livingstone's value on the transfer market, as a virtual unknown forward languishing in the Coventry City reserve team and with a senior goal to his credit, would not have topped £50,000.

But as City prepare for the match against Nottingham Forest tomorrow and a place in the Littlewoods Cup final at Wembley, Livingstone, a product of the Youth Training Scheme, might attract £1 million according to John Sillett, his manager.

Sillett is serious enough to have secured Livingstone's future at Highfield Road with a three-year contract which was agreed this week. "This lad's breakthrough has been better than finding £1 million on the doorstep," he said after seeing the player score eight goals in Coventry's last four games to become their leading scorer.

Livingstone's only previous claim to fame was as a scorer of the goal that won the FA Youth Cup for Coventry in 1987, and on the night of January 24, he scored his first four goals for his club, who beat Sunderland 5-0 in a quarter-final replay of the Littlewoods Cup.

Considering that Coventry had been the lowest scorers in the Football League with just 16 goals in 23 games, 12 in the last four represents an extraordinary contrast. "The whole team has responded to such a degree that

## SWIMMING

### Gery goes faster than ever

By Craig Lord

Marcel Gery, of Canada, collected a £10,000 prize after breaking the world record in the heat of the 100 metres butterfly at the Leicester short course meeting yesterday.

The Commonwealth Games silver medal winner, who defected from Czechoslovakia in 1986, touched home in 52.07sec, slicing more than 0.5sec off the previous record held by his fellow-Canadian, Tom Ponting.

Gery, who is coached in Toronto by Mitch Ivy, a medal winner at the Mexico City Olympics, said: "I never believed I could go so fast. This nearly a second off my best."

Gery, who received his Canadian citizenship papers just in time for the Commonwealth Games last month, now wants to be the first to break the 52-second mark, not that he will become any richer as the prize was a one-off.

In the final, the main challenge is likely to come from his team-mate, Jon Kelly, even though he was well beaten in the morning heat with 55.52.

Sharon Ellis, now swimming for Bracknell, was back in action after a disappointing Commonwealth Games. The 1980 Olympic silver medal winner competes in three finals, the 50 metres butterfly, the 100 metres freestyle and the 100 metres butterfly final.

The favourite to win the latter event is Madeleine Scarborough, of Portsmouth, who heads the World Cup women's butterfly ranking with 45 points.

Ron Dekker, of The Netherlands, powered to a 27.88sec 50 metres breaststroke heat and in the final will be looking to break the world best time of 27.15sec, held by Dimitri Volkov, of the Soviet Union.

## YACHTING

### NZ rivals in close tussle

By Barry Pickthall

Peter Blake and Grant Dalton, the two rival New Zealand skippers, were slugging it out less than a mile apart into the face of a 40-knot gale last night in a fight to be first to Punta del Este, Uruguay, and the finish of the fourth stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Their two ketch-rigged yachts, Steinlager and Fisher & Paykel, are now within 900 miles of victory, followed by New Zealand skipper by Ian Smith 83 miles astern.

The British skipper is also facing a strong gale, which has recovered more than 85 miles during the past week and trailed Rothmans by just 16 miles after overtaking the two Finnish entries, Martela OF and UF, along with the French challenger, Charles Jourdan, overnight.

The head winds now appear to be affecting all the leaders who have suffered two serious injuries during this leg, cruised into

second place among the smaller yachts yesterday.

Maiden pulled 23 miles ahead of West Germany's Schleswig II yesterday, but remains 136 miles behind Patrick Tabary's division 3 leader L'Espri de Liberte.

LEADING POSITION (compiled at 1411 GMT yesterday with 100 miles to go)

East, Uruguay: Steinlager 1, Fisher & Paykel 2 (P&F), Maid. 3, Tabary 4, Rothmans 5, Martela OF 6, UF 7, Martela 8, Fisher & Paykel 9, UF 10, Schleswig 11, Martela 12, Martela 13, Martela 14, Martela 15, Martela 16, Martela 17, Martela 18, Martela 19, Martela 20, Martela 21, Martela 22, Martela 23, Martela 24, Martela 25, Martela 26, Martela 27, Martela 28, Martela 29, Martela 30, Martela 31, Martela 32, Martela 33, Martela 34, Martela 35, Martela 36, Martela 37, Martela 38, Martela 39, Martela 40, Martela 41, Martela 42, Martela 43, Martela 44, Martela 45, Martela 46, Martela 47, Martela 48, Martela 49, Martela 50, Martela 51, Martela 52, Martela 53, Martela 54, Martela 55, Martela 56, Martela 57, Martela 58, Martela 59, Martela 60, Martela 61, Martela 62, Martela 63, Martela 64, Martela 65, Martela 66, Martela 67, Martela 68, Martela 69, Martela 70, Martela 71, Martela 72, Martela 73, Martela 74, Martela 75, Martela 76, Martela 77, Martela 78, Martela 79, Martela 80, Martela 81, 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# Forest Sun in Cheltenham switch

Forest Sun's dress rehearsal for Cheltenham in the EBF Novices' Hurdle at Kempton yesterday went without a hitch as the eye-catching chestnut was pushed past 21 rivals to win by 2½ lengths under Jimmy Frost.

But Toby Balding, who until yesterday had favoured a tilt at the Sun Alliance Hurdle over 2½ miles, is now considering the Waterford Supreme Novices' Hurdle over two miles, the same distance as yesterday's race.

"We know he gets 2½ miles but two miles round this tight track hasn't bothered him at all and we might stick with it. I won't make a decision until the day though. If the ground comes up bad at Cheltenham we'll probably favour two miles," the Fyfield trainer said, adding: "He's not yet the best in the yard but is a decent horse."

The second-placed Mistral Story, one of five runners from the Josh Gifford stable, was backed down from 33-1 to 12-1, and he stayed on well under Eamonn McKinley to be six lengths in front of another Josh Gifford entry, City Kid.

Tom Grantham fell from Gifford's Beau Charm and was taken to hospital with a suspected broken arm.

When the odds-on favourite Royal Athlete was brought down by Arctic Call at the seventh fence in the Manor Novices' Chase it looked as if much of the interest had gone out of the race.

But a treat was in store as 20-1 chance The Nigelstan fought it out with Sun Alliance to finish second, with Toureen Prince from the home turn, the former just coming out on top.

Henrietta Knight, the trainer of Toureen Prince, was less than pleased with Ronnie Beggs's riding in this race. "He must have thought he had Nijinsky under him. He left it far too late and should have kicked on," she said.

Miss Knight was delighted with the seven-year-old's jumping, however, and Paul Stamp's expensive Irish purchase will now go straight to Cheltenham.

Hedges went on to complete a long-priced double in the Littleton Handicap Hurdle when his Tyred NSnookered, an 8-1 chance, beat James My Boy by 1½ lengths.

Stan Mellor's Zuko, already heavily supported down to 16-1 for the Skagway Grand National, ran a creditable Aintree trial by finishing third, beaten five lengths, behind Nicky Henderson's former Triumph Hurdle winner First Bout.



Eventual winner The Nigelstan (Mark Perrett, far side) and Toureen Prince (Ronnie Beggs) locked together over the last at Kempton yesterday

## Upson lines up another valuable prize

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

**JOHN UPSON**, whose Nick The Brief denied the local representations in the Vincent O'Brien Irish Gold Cup last Saturday, can win another big prize this afternoon with his mare No Grandad in the Ladycross Trial Chase at Punchestown.

Unlike Nick The Brief, who is trained by Upson, No Grandad was not Mrs Pauline Gavin in Ireland. No Grandad was, however, Upson's first winner in Ireland, and taking the Father The Houndsman over Christmas to confirm the form there with Welcome Pin.

### Machiavellian best of French

The French Flat season begins

at Saint-Cloud and there

are high hopes that at least one

of their three-year-old colts will

go on to English Classic success

in 1990 (Our French Racing

Correspondent writes).

Standard-bearer Machiavellian, the 2,000 Guineas favourite, begins his campaign in the Prix Djebel at Maisons-Laffitte on April 10.

Retained, who won the Prix Des Amazones at Cagnes last year when trained by Willie Hastings-Bass, took the same race yesterday for his new trainer Jean-Claude Napoli.

Durable Encore again pulled

hard and could only finish fourth

while Montpellier Lad was out-

classed and came home last

Lastofthebrownies usually

goes well in this type of handi-

cap and he finished third to

Carville's Hill on his latest start

in the Leopardstown Chase.

However, his chances have not

been improved by the defection

of all the original top weights,

which has brought about a 25b rise in the weight.

The best of the long shots is

an event which provided a 33-1 surprise 12 months ago could be

Garbally Park, who came back

after a two-year lay-off to win at

Wentworth.

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## SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

# Witness to a sports betrayal

**Britain's approach to sport lacks leadership, a policy and a structure, according to Denis Howell, Sports Minister between 1964-70 and 1974-79. Schools, adolescents and the community at large will all suffer.**

I am much concerned about the future of sport. Not about the natural skills and abilities of British athletes, nor their character or willpower, but about government in all its many aspects.

We are moving in the wrong direction to be able to deliver opportunities, provide facilities and develop all the talent. Of course we shall have our successes, especially where the individual personality triumphs over these adversities, but most of our young sportsmen and women need to be encouraged very early on to generate an absorbing love of sport, to develop an unquenchable enthusiasm and a mastery of essential technique. These opportunities should be provided in abundance; instead we are creating obstacles and denying sport its proper role in society.

In the modern world the impetus for all this must come from the Government, as it does now in so many countries. But in Britain the present Government has no philosophy as to the importance of sport and no strategy to provide for it.

This is so in the field of all leisure resources. Our people enjoy the possibilities of more leisure time, better means of transport and access, but the leisure service industry is fragmented and the Government seems unwilling to bring the different agencies together and to provide for a comprehensive leisure policy.

The Sports Council, the Countryside Commission, the Nature Conservancy Council, the water industry and the local authorities (including the education authorities) ought to be working together under ministerial leadership to provide unlimited possibilities from which people can choose their leisure time enjoyment. No such policy exists.

I have always believed that the Arts Council and the tourist industry should be added to these to provide a new department of state – particularly since tourism is such an important economic industry with clout in Whitehall – and have long recommended such a policy.

It is becoming ever more important to bring this about, not only to provide for the enhancement and enjoyment of life but because failure to do so will increase boredom and frustrations, which can also cost society more than we need to find for the promotion of sensible and civilised leisure pursuits.

The greatest of all my fears for the future of sport lies in the fields of education and local authority provision. All over the country playing fields are being sold for development and they will never be replaced. This is disastrous.

When challenged, the Minister of Sport takes refuge in the fact that fewer all weather pitches are required than grass pitches. All weather pitches are excellent for heavy, everyday use but they are not a substitute for God's good grass upon which most team games should be played.

The mania for the privatization of local authority sports halls, swimming baths and recreational management is a disaster of monumental scale. All over the country young people who we need to encourage to play games and to participate in sport are being priced out of the necessary facilities while the police and the Home Office throw up their hands in horror at the effects of hooliganism and boredom!

It is to be hoped that the ratepayers soon come to their senses by realising the effect of these policies on young people and also on their own pockets as they come to appreciate the financial sleight of hand which leaves them to pay the loan charges and maintenance costs while the private operators walk away with the operating profits.

Local education authorities have been told to sell off educational sports land. This is a betrayal of the future.

If school rolls are falling the numbers of young people in our society are not disappearing; they



Fitness on parade: Howell, as Sports Minister in 1969, meets a British group drawn from physical education colleges and bound for Tokyo for an international congress.

**T**here is a fascination about the Olympic Games which is timeless and universal. Love sport or hate it, the magnificent feats of men and women who extend the boundaries of human achievement are forced upon the consciousness of mankind. They cannot be ignored.

These days the wonders of television and radio elicit our interest in advance and compel us to become participants, even from our own sitting rooms. This compulsion knows no equal in the world. The Seoul Olympic Games of 1988 was beamed worldwide and watched by an audience of hundreds of millions. No political leader and no religious leader can assemble any comparable audience to match that appeal. That is why the influence and integrity of the Olympic

## Harmony at a stroke

Games are so precious and why the integrity of the Olympic movement has to be a subject of continuous debate and its ethical standards jealously guarded against every assault. These concepts find a practical expression in the Olympic village even more than on the running track, in the swimming pool, the sports halls or the fields of sport where competition takes place. For it is in the Olympic village that the youth of the world assemblies, to live and play together. They do so on terms of total equality, irrespective of all the barriers with which men divide the world. Here they are of no consequence. The

Olympic Games takes no heed of the colours of the government, ethnic origins, religious beliefs, political prejudices or differences of sex. No other activity in the world can assemble such a truly international gathering dedicated to the pursuit of peace and harmony through healthy competition. That is the massive contribution which sport makes towards international goodwill. That is why since I first understood its purpose I have been committed to support and sustain its ideals. This determination has led me into the fiercest battles, but it has also rewarded me with moments of great joy which have

been unsurpassed in my own sporting life. On the fields of sport, the only qualities that matter are the sporting abilities of the sportsman and sportswoman and their characters as people. Since 1936 and the triumph of Jesse Owens at Berlin, that is what the Olympic Games has meant to me. We must not disregard true national pride in which we all share through the reflected glory of our successes; I do believe, however, that these have got out of hand in recent years, especially with the publication of medal tables of which I thoroughly disapprove. Our admiration should be first for the achievement itself, irrespective of the nationality of the winner; national pride should always be secondary to that. If it is otherwise we are not true internationalists.

Many teachers are responding angrily by working their required number of hours and no more. School sport is suffering and although I am well aware that there are still wonderful examples of dedicated devotion being practised all over the country, the situation is not hopeful.

As president of the West Midlands Schools Athletic Association I recently attended their annual championships and found the organisers thoroughly depressed. Forty per cent of the pupils entered failed to take part because there were no teachers willing to turn out on a Saturday and Sunday. And the overwhelming numbers of our great national athletic champions will testify to the importance of school sport in their own development. It is all very sad. The effect will be long term and that means the future of British sport is in jeopardy.

I am impressed with the appointment of David Pickup, the

new director. Sir John Smith the now retired chairman, deserves credit for that imaginative appointment, but Pickup is an administrator not an idealist. He shows a willingness to work with the voluntary sector and we must hope that this relationship blossoms. But the structure created for him by the government is fundamentally flawed.

The CCPR is the only all-embracing forum for sport in this country, that is to say sport as represented through the governing bodies. I am well aware that many of them possess their faults and, we often bemoan their shortcomings, but in a free society there is no other way but to vest the control of sport in a democratically elected governing body. It only causes offence when the Minister consults

an assembly of distinguished sports performers, excludes any representatives of the governing bodies and calls for "gold medal administration by gold medal athletes". That is a meaningless concept.

The CCPR, the British Olympic Association and the National Playing Fields Association are the chief agencies with which the Minister of Sport should be working. They represent British sport and membership of the Sports Council should reflect that fact. Its accountability to British sport should be through their membership and to the public at large through representatives of local authorities and sport in education and by individual appointments designed to acknowledge the needs of groups still at a dis-

advantage; women, the handicapped and ethnic minorities.

A truncated Sports Council cannot possibly provide for this wider representation of interests. If we are to have a small executive Sports Council then there should be a much larger council drawn from all these interests to whom it is responsible and which can determine policy. On balance, I prefer the much greater involvement of the CCPR, the BOA and the NPPA, which would have the important advantage of limiting the friction which so often afflicts British sport.

There is another important consideration. Sport needs a campaigning voice and that means a strong, knowledgeable and independent organization. This has to be the CCPR. It is fully representative but it is not willing to involve its constituent bodies in a sustained campaign. Peter Lawson, the director, is forceful and resourceful.

The Football Trust has been an outstanding success and this must be built upon. The huge taxation on pools should be reduced – it is totally unfair when compared with taxation on other forms of gambling – and some of this money should be used to extend the work of the Trust in providing for better spectator comforts and sport in the community.

But important as football is, it is not the only sport for which we have to provide. We also need new financial provision for the encouragement of cricket, athletics, swimming, tennis, and rugby and the other sports not enjoying the support of the Football Trust.

Only if we think in these terms can the future needs of British sport be met. It is only by providing for sport in the schools and in the community that we can create the foundation upon which it can prosper. After that we have to develop the talents which emerge right through the club structures and on to international level. This is a policy which is quite capable of attainment but it will require a fundamental rethink by the Government, or by a new Government which accepts these responsibilities and assists sport to meet them.

Supporters' clubs and the Football Supporters' Association have worked together under my chairmanship to make an ex-

## Four who kept it mum

**D**uring my time as Minister of State for the Environment and as Minister for Sport I liked to think that I knew where I was going but I had a duty to carry as many people with me as I could. Hardly a week went by that I took the Opposition spokesman into my confidence as far as was practical. This has never been reciprocated by my four successors in the 10 years since I left office ...

### Hector Munro

Margaret Thatcher's first choice of Minister for Sport. A former president of the Scottish Rugby Union, Hector had good relationships with the governing bodies and the CCPR. He was able to announce in the House that he could endorse the agreement which I had reached with the Treasury not to tax the spot the ball competition and so guarantee income for the Football Trust. Relaxed and easy to talk to, it is regrettable he did not survive the 1980 Moscow Olympics fiasco. I doubt if he approved of his government's boycott policy and he was certainly not allowed to take part in the famous debate in the House.

### Sir Neil Macfarlane

A good player of golf and cricket, Neil also knew a good deal about sports politics and the CCPR, having been No. 2 to Munro when the Conservatives were in opposition. I was surprised, then, that he got into so much trouble with the CCPR, including expensive litigation. He followed this up

with a too direct involvement in the affairs of the Sports Council. This led to the forced retirement of both the director and the deputy director.

### Dick Tracey

Little if any sporting background, Tracey had been a broadcasting journalist which suggests his appointment was made with presentational skills in mind. I don't think Dick knew enough about sport to make any real impact or to promote any new thinking. He associated himself wholeheartedly with Birmingham's Olympic bid and he came over to Lausanne with us to indicate government support, but it was inevitable that his inconspicuous period of office was the opposite expected of him.

### Celina Moynihan

The Tracey deficiencies were certainly corrected by the appointment of Colin Moynihan. An outstanding rowing cox of Olympic fame, he will take a new initiative about anything at the drop of a hat. He certainly has no respect for the conservative traditions of sport. It is all change with Colin – like the Sports Council which he reduced in size. Far and away the major disappointment was his handling of the football identity card scheme. He started every meeting with the statement: "The scheme is not negotiable". In other words, he was under orders from the Prime Minister, and that is how sport perceives him.

## FISHING: ECOLOGY PUT FIRST AS FARM SALMON BECOMES THE FOOD FOR ALL

### Race is on for the first 'green pinkies'

By Conrad Voss Bark

An article in the *Caterer and Hotelkeeper* magazine announced that 1990 will be the year that farm salmon will

become food for the proletariat and will lose its upper class image, as top chefs exclude it from their menus.

Salmon fishermen are unlikely to recognize as salmon what the factories are going to do to it before it appears in the supermarkets.

The article says that, according to an informed source, two salmon recipes have been shortlisted for testing in selected restaurants this spring.

"Pinky Patties will be an alternative to the classic burger.

Made from 100 per cent mechanically recovered prime salmon, the patties contain no additives. They are calcium-rich because the unique manufacturing process uses the bones as a binding agent," the article said.

The second product, Pinky Nuggets, are deep-golden fried lean salmon pieces in a specially formulated batter. Farm-fresh salmon is filleted and soaked in a spicy flavour-enhancing marinade, lightly smoked, and dipped into a coating designed for crispier-than-crispiness.

Nothing is left to chance.

Pinkies Patties will be packaged in non-toxic, CFC-free cartons which will carry com-

plete nutritional information including vitamin content and the cholesterol level per portion."

Launch details are still to be finalized.

"The company is evaluating the benefits of a 0.025p donation to the Save the Whales campaign for every party sold. Its initial plan of giving away Save the Rainforest stickers was abandoned as it was seen to conflict with company policy towards South American beef suppliers."

Fort William is apparently

campaigning hard for the hon-

## CYCLING

### Clark starts peace bid

Melbourne – Danny Clark, Europe's leading six-day rider and, until Tony Doyle's serious crash in Germany last November, Doyle's favourite partner, begins a goodwill tour here tonight which he hopes will remedy the ill-feeling often shown to him by Australian officials and riders (Peter Bryan writes).

The Tasmanian-born and based Clark, aged 35, wants to start his ride towards final retirement – which is likely to be in 1992 – by offering an olive branch to those who have described him as "big headed" and "stand-offish" on previous visits to his home country.

He could not have chosen a harder debut than the top-rated 2,000 metres Austral handicap race at Northcote velodrome, an event which only he, the former world sprint pursuit champion, Sid Patterson, and Laurie Venn, have won twice.

Clark will be off scratch with next month to join the new Banca Parco team, the 1988 world champion, Stephen Pate, and Craig Milton. The quartet will be conceding up to 150 metres on the longmakers.

This week Clark has had extensive tests at the Australian Institute of Sport in Adelaide to determine what virus has affected him since Christmas. In the Austral race he starts with yet another handicap: two wrists badly sprained in a training crash on Wednesday.

RUGBY UNION: CUP  
Pilkins every all win

Virtues that Gloucester

'FOR

AN EVENING WITH THE STARS  
MADAME TUSSAUDS, LONDON  
Wednesday 7th March 1990  
7.30pm - 9.00pm - Drinks &

Chairs will include:  
BARNES - BLACK & DECKER  
BANKSY EXHIBITION GROUP  
BARKER - HAYMARKET - 100  
BORG MORGAN - KLP GROUP  
BROWN BROTHERS INTERBANK  
COLUMBIA - SCHROEDER  
DICKINSONS - S.G. WARBLER  
WELLCOME - WILLISTON



## ACCOUNTANCY

# In training for the real world

The Chartered Institute of Accountants has launched an extensive survey to find out what its young members really do with their qualifications, Edward Fennell writes

**W**hat tasks exactly do newly qualified chartered accountants actually perform? You might be forgiven for assuming that the Institute of Chartered Accountants would know the answer to this. Well, it doesn't. And it is quite happy to admit that it doesn't and it is now determined to find out.

The first steps are being taken in an exercise to establish precisely what kind of work chartered accountants move into once qualified. Of course, the Institute has a general idea of the jobs young accountants do, and it holds statistics of those who stay in practice and those who move into business. But the aim now is to achieve a precise understanding of their functions and tasks in a specific and detailed way.

"Even among people in industry who have jobs with the same title, it is quite likely that the actual content of their work will vary enormously," says Paul Masters of Price Waterhouse, who is chairing the steering group which is driving this project. "What we are now trying to establish is a complete picture of the work

undertaken by chartered accountants in their first full job, and to establish the percentage of who does what."

The aim of this exercise is not purely academic. Finding out what people actually do is a first step towards addressing the question of what training young accountants should receive and the assessments to which they should be subject. There is, of course, no question about the rigour and the quality of the chartered accountancy qualification system. But in view of the new emphasis being given to accountants in business, and a general concern about the effectiveness of investments in education and training, the Institute is determined that the profession should focus on the right targets.

"It may be years before the process we have just commenced comes to any conclusion," Paul Masters explains, "but I believe it is a valuable exercise because we should not ignore ways of making the education and training system more relevant to what people actually do."

One of the objectives of the inquiry, which is being conducted by assessment and training consultants Maloney & Gealy, is to establish what relationship exists between the education and exam system and what accountants actually do once qualified. It is a common characteristic of assessment systems that what is examinable becomes important, and it may be that accountancy education is skewed towards the demands of exams rather than the actual demands of chartered accountants' work.

Another possible problem may be that, because of the enormous variety of jobs entered by newly qualified chartered accountants, there may be only a relatively small core of skills and knowledge common to all of them.

Underlying this whole exercise is a fundamental question about the way professional assessments are conducted. Should they, for example, be an exact reflection of what people actually do at work and the standards they must achieve, or ought they to be (as some commentators see the present system) some kind of endurance test and trial of ability which provides evidence that the candidate is made of "the right stuff" intellectually and personally?

Such questions do not, of course, apply solely to accountancy. Under the auspices of the Department of Employment's standards programme these issues are being raised with many professions and occupations as part of the drive to produce a better and more appropriately qualified workforce.

In the context of chartered accountancy the question of relevance to the job is especially sensitive. There is strong evidence that many people train for the profession not because they wish to become accountants as such but because the qualification is seen as a good gateway into management. Consequently by making the qualification more explicitly "relevant", its generic status as a passport into a range of opportunities—from merchant banking to teaching—could be put at risk.

The nuances of that issue cannot be evaluated, however, until Maloney & Gealy have analysed the replies to a questionnaire which was sent out last month to 1,050 accountants who qualified in 1988. In total, 37 possible areas of competence have been identified, and the survey is asking participants which apply to them. Ranging from tasks such as "carrying out statutory external audits" and "completing personal tax returns for clients" to "awarding contracts and exercising financial and budgetary controls", the survey will end up providing a "map" of all newly qualified accountants' activities expressing both the extent of their work and the degree of overlap.

Once that map has been established (which should be by around the end of next month) the steering group, aided by Maloney & Gealy, will produce an analysis of what the jargon calls "units and elements of competence". The results will then be taken back to the profession to see if these provide a useful model for further work.

"I want to reassure people,



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- DALMATIA: PORT-HOPPING
- ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS: RIDING

## TRAVEL



Pounding the Buenos Aires streets: Michael Watkins found the city self-assured, even though it has to house almost half the country's population and handle a cost of living which has risen by 5,279.3 per cent in a year

## A tango into melancholy

**H**er name was María Nieves, his Carlos Copes; and they coiled about each other like deadly black mambas. Their hair, raven dark, was brilliantined. She was haughty, tubercular thin, with shoulder blades like nutcrackers. He was taut, moving snappishly, a human whip lash. Together they sparked electricity in a virtuoso performance the like of which I had never seen before. And I nearly missed them altogether.

Invited to dinner and a "show" in Buenos Aires, I declined. "You must come," my Argentinian hosts insisted, "this is something different." They drove me through the San Telmo quarter, cobbled alleys where, at the turn of the century, the tango was born. The first act at the Casa Blanca was a group, Ecos Andinos, who were saucy as sparrows then suddenly melancholy, making music that sounded hauntingly like the wind. I've heard moaning across the Peruvian alpiano.

Then María and Carlos tangoed. They told me what spirituals told me of North American negro slavery: for the tango is not just the music of the *porteños* (residents of BA), it laments the *descamisados* (shirtless ones) who cried for Argentina and for themselves.

Next morning I left for Patagonia, and when I reappeared in Buenos Aires a fortnight later the dollar had soared even more crazily: in one year it has risen 11,417.5 per cent while the Ar-

gentine cost of living has grown 5,279.3 per cent. Bank deposits were paying 1 per cent interest every two hours. At the Sheraton it was impossible to change notes into small denominations for tipping.

*Porteños* talked about money as Londoners must have discussed the plague in 1349, dreading its contagion, speculating on their chances of survival. Their hope rested in President Menem, playboy-saviour who came into power in May 1989. The question on everyone's lips was: can he fight corruption with the same verve as he tackled opponents in his chukkas on the polo field?

Because Buenos Aires is so vast, housing 40 per cent of the country's 26 million population, I approached it by two modes of transport. First by bus, from which I viewed the most European, the most Parisian of all South American cities. Like Paris, it was self-assured, arrogant of course; there was nothing haphazard, nothing left to chance. It had been designed with scrupulous care, with grave attention to detail, as witnessed by the rococo and baroque knick-knacks embellishing these earnest grey buildings of the 1930s.

Like Paris, it is graced with wide boulevards, leafy parks and swooping swooning statuary. Indeed, Buenos Aires has even tried to teach Paris a trick or two in architectural chic: the Avenida 9 Julio is not merely wide, measuring 425ft across, it is the widest street on earth; another main drag, 27

miles from the Plaza de Mayo to wherever, is the longest in creation: El Obelisco is . . . well, it is described as the world's greatest monument to the suppository.

Then, for a couple of days, I trudged the city which, in January, was like pounding the pavements of Madrid in wicked August. I saw that BA was not Paris, but a copy. No, not a fake, simply not a terribly faithful reproduction of an unrepeatable original.

I recall the precise moment when this not very profound thought occurred to me. I was loitering in the Plaza de los Dos Congresos, staring at Rodin's "The Thinker", realizing this too was a copy, that the original was in the Rodin Museum in Paris. The Thinker's head seemed Neanderthaloid, not quite in proportion. Great body, but it was the mind I worried about.

Reprised against these treasonable opinions came swiftly and with devastating accuracy from a mustard firing-squad. It was the latest in a series of innovative schemes by which hungry *porteños* part-fleshy tourists from their purses: an urchin sprays you with mustard/ketchup/unmentionables, the cue for a public-spirited citizen to rush forward with exclamations

of horror, offering Kleenex. As you gratefully respond to this ministration, a third accomplice relieves you of handbag/camera/watch.

I do not make too much of this; neither, if I might suggest it, should you. No malice intended to that irreproachable borough, it is not beyond the long arm of providence that your pocket could be picked in Budleigh Salterton.

By this time I was footsore and lost. I do not mean I could not find my way from the Italian district of La Boca to the Colón Theatre, from the cathedral tomb of José de San Martín to that haunt of intellectuals, the Café El Molino. I mean I was still a moonshot away from finding the key to the city's persona.

**T**rying again, I headed for Recoleta Cemetery, to the mausoleum of the family Duarte, reading the dedication to Evita, a sad, beautiful and envious cancer victim who died aged 32 imploring that Argentina should not cry for her. Or so we are informed. But both the singer and the song were gone, and I was visited by no reverential echoes.

In desperation I drove 30 miles out to the Huntingdon Club,

founded in 1888 by William Dawson-Campbell and a brace of double-barrelled birds of similar plumage. It was unenviriedly as I imagined Bagshot circa 1935: hedgehogs trim as a colonel's moustache, strings of polo ponies, leggy beauties by the pool, splinters of gossip more insinuating than a whiff of illicit eau-de-Cologne. A cricket match was in progress, very proper in whites, with "Well played, sir!" and "Howzat?" less properly, or so it seemed, in Spanish. It came to me then that the Anglo-Argentines were playing at being Brits.

The club manager, David Colville Jones, fourth-generation Anglo-Argentine, very decently treated a bank clerk: "I drove home from work, kissed my wife, had dinner and watched television. I changed into black clothes, after which I took my gun and went to meet my friends. Together we travelled to our target. After we had killed him I returned to my house and went to bed. In the morning I brushed my teeth and went to work."

If you are expecting me to claim that this too could happen in Budleigh Salterton, I am going to disappoint you.

Italian, Eastern European, British; the order of their lives has been confused by civil wars, by Perón, by right- and left-wing extremists, by guerrilla groups such as the Montoneros, to say little of the anti-Semitic that has provoked as many as 100,000 Jews to flee Argentina since 1976.

The schizophrenia which, not all that long ago, characterized BA's political and emotional climate, was chillingly paraphrased by a bank clerk: "I drove home from work, kissed my wife, had dinner and watched television. I changed into black clothes, after which I took my gun and went to meet my friends. Together we travelled to our target. After we had killed him I returned to my house and went to bed. In the morning I brushed my teeth and went to work."

What matters is how undisturbed snow continually changes. Temperature differences within the snow cause water vapour to sublime from warmer layers and recrystallize in colder levels. This is particularly important where new snow falls on hard-frozen ground or ice. Over time, crystals at the interface can grow in granular or plate-like form which enables the upper layer to slide easily over the lower ones, creating local avalanche conditions.

In these circumstances it is essential that skiers should heed local warnings and use expert guides when going off piste. Do not be tempted by inviting slopes which have not been opened up, even if a few foolhardy skiers have safely traversed them. The locals do not keep them shut out of spite, and the slow changes beneath the surface may mean that what was risky yesterday is perilous today.

W. J. Burroughs

## TRAVEL NOTES

● British Airways has recently re-opened the London to Buenos Aires route and Michael Watkins was among the first passengers on the service with stops in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Cheapest return in March is £866 (minimum stay 13 days). There is an Argentine departure tax of approximately £6.25. Britons require an Argentine visa. Reliable contact for ground arrangements in Buenos Aires: Furlong SA, Esmeralda 1000 (1007). Telephone 311 1207/8200.

## NEXT SATURDAY

Michael Watkins steps ashore in Patagonia on his journey to South America

## Flying into spring

## FARÉ DEAL

Snap up the last of this winter's flight bargains while you can. March will be a sluggish month for business (because of the late Easter) so airlines and flight specialists have plenty of special offers to drum up custom.

Take Italy, for example. Normally British Airways (BA) would charge £188 for an APEX (Advance Purchase Excursion) or £250 for a PEX (Instant Purchase) excursion to Rome, while the same fare to Venice would set you back £185 and £234 respectively. However, until the end of March, BA is marketing a "seat sale" to all its Italian destinations. So you can book a special excursion fare (no advance booking restrictions but the maximum stay is 14 days) to Rome for just £142, while Venice goes for £137 – savings of almost 50 per cent on the normal PEX fare.

Other Italian destinations featured by BA with the seat sale fare are: Turin £128, Milan £128, Genoa £128, Bologna £131, Pisa £131 and Naples £132.

There are excursion fare savings on routes to Spain. That country's flag-carrier, Iberia, has deals on its Moneysaver fares from London Heathrow to Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao and Santiago, also when flying from Birmingham/Manchester to Barcelona and Madrid. When two people travel both ways together, the first pays half price. So, based on the London/Madrid Super PEX fare, one person would pay £139, the other £70.

There are good deals to Paris if you fly from Gatwick. Flight consolidator Euro Express is charging £75 for return Dan-Air flights (the normal PEX fare is £103), while Nouvelles Frontières is charging £65 return for flights with

fares from Heathrow: Aberdeen £67, Edinburgh/Glasgow £63, Manchester £51 and Newcastle £57. These prices are 20 per cent less than BA's normal APEX fares. On the Gatwick/Newcastle run, Dan-Air has a limited offer of £59 excursion (valid on off-peak flights) for stays of up to five days.

During March there is also a flourishing amount of price-cutting on transatlantic routes. London-based Airborn Travel, a consolidator for Pan Am and TWA, has deals not only to all the main US gateways but also to a further 50 points in the " hinterland".

Airborn has hundreds of low off-season fares and the price you pay depends on how far ahead you book and how much flexibility you need. Take the example of Heathrow/New York: Airborn charges as little as £240 return if you are prepared to book a few weeks ahead.

Impulse travellers are not left out. For bookings made up until a few hours of travel, Airborn's fare to New York is a mere £300 return. All these prices include "hidden extras" such as airport tax, US customs fee and security fee.

Other Airborn destinations (based on booking a few weeks ahead) include: Boston, Washington DC and Chicago for £240; Miami £290; New Orleans £325; Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle for £340. Other points covered include: San Diego, Phoenix, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta and Minneapolis.

Alex McWhirter

● Flight specialists: Airborn 01-705 2288; Astro 0727 38191; Bloomsbury Travel 01-342 6346; Euro Express 0293 511125; Nouvelles Frontières 01-629 7772.

● The author is Travel Editor of Business Traveller magazine.

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## TRAVEL NEWS

## Airport price checks

RAA, which runs seven UK airports including Heathrow and Gatwick, is holding down its car-parking and duty-free shop prices. The move comes after pressure from the Office of Fair Trading, which has been flooded with complaints about RAA's pricing policies.

RAA faces a Monopolies and Mergers Commission review later this year, but in the meantime it says that over the next two years parking charges will not increase by more than the retail price index at Gatwick, or by 1 per cent less than it is at Heathrow.

The company will also maintain "substantial" discounts on high street prices for duty-free goods.

● Free car breakdown insurance, worth up to £44.50, is being offered by Eurocamp to customers who book a camping holiday by the end of March. The offer is available to those who book a return crossing with Sealink on the Folkestone-Boulogne or Newhaven-Dieppe route. The holiday must include 10 nights and be taken before July 20 or after August 25 (0563 3844).

Philip Ray

## SNOW REPORT

Now that the huge snow falls of 10 days ago have been packed down, euphoria has descended over the Alps. But it is justified only where the higher, well-beaten pistes are concerned. Only high up has the snow been stabilized without turning to slush in the sun.

Off-piste there is cause for only modified rapture. The problem is that so much snow has fallen on such a thin – or in some places non-existent – base that conditions will remain dangerous for a long time. Where the snow has not avalanched off already, a slow process of change will take place which cannot be detected from the surface. It is no good assuming that the rapid temperature fluctuations that occur from day to day will resolve problems deep down.

What matters is how undisturbed snow continually changes. Temperature differences within the snow cause water vapour to sublime from warmer layers and recrystallize in colder levels. This is particularly important where new snow falls on hard-frozen ground or ice. Over time, crystals at the interface can grow in granular or plate-like form which enables the upper layer to slide easily over the lower ones, creating local avalanche conditions.

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There are excursion fare savings on routes to Spain. That country's flag-carrier, Iberia, has deals on its Moneysaver fares from London Heathrow to Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao and Santiago, also when flying from Birmingham/Manchester to Barcelona and Madrid. When two people travel both ways together, the first pays half price. So, based on the London/Madrid Super PEX fare, one person would pay £139, the other £70.

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## TRAVEL

## Extra, extra, read all about it

**J**ust when we thought they had gone away for ever, are holiday surcharges back to haunt us again? It might seem so, though to nothing like the extent of two or three years ago. Then, you may remember, scores of companies, which had originally priced their holidays ludicrously cheaply to pull the customers in, slapped on last-minute surcharges to hoist themselves out of the red.

Public outrage when this practice became the rule rather than the exception forced the travel industry to clean up its act. The Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) has formulated new regulations covering surcharges, and reckons these will have reduced the summer 1988 avalanche by at least 80 per cent. If a tour operator wants to surcharge, it must first make out a case to Abta, satisfying the association that its reasons are justified and its proposed level equitable. It must then absorb the first 2 per cent of the surcharge and then pass the rest on to the customer no later than eight weeks before the holiday is due to start.

What has prompted the current, so far modest, round of surcharges is principally currency fluctuations. French and Swiss francs, lire and schillings are all 9 to 11 per cent stronger against sterling than they were when this winter's holidays were costed last March. The dollar, the currency of aviation fuel, has only very recently eased back to its March 1989 level, and

Surcharges are back but with new rules, Elizabeth de Stroobillo says



the cost of fuel has gone up by nearly a third.

In the circumstances, it is perhaps more surprising that so many holiday companies are *not* surcharging than that a few are. Most firms, however, now have unconditional no-surchARGE guarantees, including the Thomson and Intasun groups, whose resources enable them to pay fuel and currency bills in advance, at the prices on which their holidays are costed.

Out of 700-odd tour-operating members of Abta, only 40 have been given permission to surcharge, and of those 40 most are surcharging only parts of their programmes.

The area most affected is winter sports. Ski Enterprise, the only component of the Redwing group not to guarantee against surcharges, is

passing on to customers some two-thirds of its 6 per cent cost increases. Inghams is not surcharging its eastern European ski holidays, but is asking for an extra 5 per cent for those to western European and American resorts. Knorr, best known for long-distance trips, is surcharging only its Swiss ski holidays, by just under 3 per cent; other, smaller specialists, such as Headwater Holidays with its modest French cross-country programme, are making surcharges at about the same level.

Other destinations affected are farther afield, but not all companies are applying the surcharges Abta has approved. Thomas Cook's Faraway Holidays (to Hawaii, the Caribbean, Bermuda, East Africa and the Indian Ocean

resorts) is one that is an average of £15 extra per person. Page & Moy is asking passengers to the Soviet Union, Hawaii and the US west coast for an extra £11 or so. But flights-only specialist Unjet, which offers US holidays as well as transatlantic flights and reckons that charter costs have gone up by £20-£30 per seat, is not levying the surcharges Abta has agreed to. This decision could cost it £6,000 a week for its 300 seats to Florida alone, but, says managing director Nigel Jenkins: "We felt it more important not to tarnish our passengers by clobbering our passengers."

In the face of such disparity, can you be sure of avoiding surcharges? The short answer is that you cannot. If you have already booked Abta rules that passengers can cancel without penalty only if a surcharge exceeds 10 per cent, and the average so far is well below that. If you have not booked yet, the companies offering unconditional no-surchARGE guarantees (but read the small print carefully) are the only safe bets. However, currency fluctuations mean that even if your basic holiday price does not go up, the extras you will need at the other end will certainly cost you more.

The basic-price increase is therefore only part of the story, and if the perfect holiday you have your eye on is not guaranteed it could, even with a small surcharge, prove better value to you than a less-than-ideal one carrying a guarantee.

across East Africa in the footsteps of the 19th-century explorers Count Teleki and Ludwig von Hochmuth. Heaton rode a bicycle for part of the journey but his 22-month trip through Tanzania and Kenya was, in many respects, even more dangerous than Teleki's 100 years before. *In Teleki's Footsteps - A Walk Across East Africa* (Macmillan, £14.95) though strictly for the armchair traveller, is a well-written account of one middling man's bid for freedom.

Jenny Tabakoff

and everywhere an obsession with food and how to obtain it, and people too scared to complain except in whispers. A sharp snapshot of the very recent past (Hoeller & Stough, £12.95).

• Perfect long-haul travellers could do worse than pick up one of the two new additions to the Collins Illustrated Guide to... series, from Australia and Bali (both £9.99). Both paperbacks are light and compact enough to be constant companions on your travels, and there are lots of excellent photographs to whet your

appetite before you leave. The first, by Carl Robinson, is a useful and up-to-date state-of-the-art guide to Australia; the second, by Suzanne Charis, again follows a logical district-by-district format, emphasising the cultural and religious life of the Indonesian island over where to find the best sun.

• Tom Heaton was working for the BBC in Kenya when he sensed the world closing in on him and decided to do something completely different. He took early retirement and walked more than 3,500 miles

across East Africa in the footsteps of the 19th-century explorers Count Teleki and Ludwig von Hochmuth. Heaton rode a bicycle for part of the journey but his 22-month trip through Tanzania and Kenya was, in many respects, even more dangerous than Teleki's 100 years before. *In Teleki's Footsteps - A Walk Across East Africa* (Macmillan, £14.95) though strictly for the armchair traveller, is a well-written account of one middling man's bid for freedom.

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## TRAVEL

# Going along for the ride

Before I first climbed into the saddle, I asked a grizzled horseman how long it took to learn to ride. His reply was discouraging. "From three to four months, or a lifetime... it depends on the rider." Five years later I am still learning, but as with all sports, a grasp of the basic techniques probably depends on how much time the beginner is willing to devote to the new challenge. Maybe it takes a lifetime, after all.

Riding is a splendid but perhaps unexpectedly demanding activity, which begins with getting on the hairy brute, then walking, trotting, and with luck, after a couple of weeks, moving on to the canter. This is the point at which I usually fall off. I have fallen off horses in Spain, France, Mexico, the US, Canada and England. After five years I have got pretty good at falling off. I have also learned to get back on again and take charge of the horse. Horses may appear amiable, but they have an instinct for discovering if the rider knows what he is doing. If not, Brother Horse will take over.

**ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS**



That said, horse-riding is an enjoyable pastime with various inbuilt advantages. First, you don't need to be particularly athletic. I didn't start riding seriously until I was 50. Second, you don't need to own a horse, for any riding school will supply one. Third, your four-legged friend can provide the basis for an ever-wider range of horse-back holidays.

Very little special kit or clothing is required to begin with, although those who own boots and jodhpurs are at an advantage over those who turn up in jeans. Boots and a hard hat are the essential items, the boots for comfort, the hat to protect the skull. The recommended riding hat has a chin-stay and conforms to British Standard BS4472, and will cost between £30 and £50, although most reputable riding establishments can provide one. Rubber riding boots will cost from £25, jodhpurs from £30, a riding crop £12, a decent showerproof jacket about £50. Riding schools charge from £10 an hour for lessons.

Robin Neillands



On horseback through the mountains and weather of Ireland: apparently leisurely, riding is a skill which takes time to acquire — starting with how to fall off and get back on again

## GETTING STARTED

Before going on a holiday, those who do not ride regularly, or at all, would be well advised to take a course of lessons at a riding school to acquire some technique, tone up the muscles and learn a little about horses. To locate a good riding school, contact the Training Dept, British Horse Society, British Equestrian Centre, Stowleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LR (024 566677). The BHS can provide addresses of local schools, such as Rock, *Where to Ride* (£2.50 inc p & p), which gives details of some 500 BHS-approved riding schools up and down the country.

To protect their horses, most establishments have a weight limit of about 13 stones for the rider, and restrict the amount of luggage carried on cross-country expeditions to around 3-4b.

Before going on the holiday, ring the riding school or the holiday company to check the level of ability required and the sort of riding on offer.

 Britain and Ireland are full of riding schools and small local companies offering horseback holidays.

Equitana Holidays of Kemerton, Gloucestershire, offers trail riding through the Cotswolds on quality horses and steady, reliable cobs, based on a small country hotel. A one-week Cotswold ride costs from £430.

Northumbria Horse Holidays of County Durham has a five-day Learn to Ride holiday and an Improve your Riding holiday, both at £139 all-inclusive, and trail riding through the Cheviots and the country around the Roman Wall, staying overnight in three-star hotels, at prices from £239 all-inclusive.

Horse-riding weekends are also available from the Petty France Hotel near Bedminster, Avon: a weekend costs from £49 for two nights, and horses are hired from a local stable at about £10 per hour. The riding takes place in the excellent country around the Badminton Estate.

In Wales, you can ride on lost trails with Trans-Wales Trail Rides, a 100-mile cross-Wales ride from Abergavenny to Aberystwyth which takes four days (this is for

fairly fit, experienced riders only). Prices start at £235, with overnight accommodation in pubs and guest-houses.

Scotland can offer a great variety of riding terrain. Good Highland treks for all abilities are available from the Loch Ness Equicentre at Dores, Inverness, from £85 a week, self-catering. The beautiful Isle of Arran can be explored on horseback with Isle of Arran Riding Holidays: good horses and full-board farmhouse accommodation from £150-£180 per week.

In Ireland, Imtravel is offering a week-long trail ride around country inns on the Ring of Kerry, a beautiful ride for fit riders. Prices from £674, including flights and hire.

A full selection of horseback holidays in Britain is available in a booklet, *Riding and Trekking Holidays*, published by the British Tourist Authority (BTA) in association with the British Horse Society and available from tourist information centres or from the British Travel Centre, 12 Regent Street SW1Y 4PQ (01-730 3400).

For riding in Ireland, contact the Irish Tourist Board, Ireland House, 150 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0AQ (01-493 3201).

 There is riding in France for everyone but in my experience this is really a more relaxed

country for the fit and more experienced rider. La France des Villages offers horseback trips in the Charollais country of Burgundy. A typical duration is five to seven days, riding for four to six hours per day, sometimes at the gallop. Prices range from £200 to £350, full board, depending on the accommodation, including ferry crossing and rail fares.

If this sounds too energetic, something a little gentler is available in the foothills of the Pyrenees, where Imtravel has a number of horseback tours. One, for inexperienced riders, is based at a riding centre and consists of instruction and guided day-rides into the Corbières; another offers a one-week trail ride around the Cathar country of Languedoc stopping in small hotels. A seven-night Imtravel ride will cost from £481 including accommodation, food and horse.

A list of good riding establishments can be obtained from the French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-491 7622). A one-week child rate (ages two to 11) starts at £380.

The United States offers two kinds of horseback holiday — the more relaxed on a dude ranch, which is like a holiday camp with horses, and a touch of the real thing on a working ranch. Both have the great advantage of offering rides in those comfortable Western saddles. Having tried dude ranches and the working kind, I find the latter far more enjoyable, though a good deal tougher.

Both kinds of ranch holiday are available through American Round-Up of Hemel Hempstead: two good examples in Wyoming are the Rimrock Dude Ranch, which caters for beginners and offers easy riding, or my particular favourite, the Tippet's TX Ranch, close to the Bighorn Mountains. A week on the Rimrock Dude Ranch costs from £443; a week on the TX from £283, excluding fares. Western riding is also available through Ranch America of Kenton in Middlesex: a week on the Mayan Dude Ranch in Texas will cost from £715, including air fares, with discounts for those staying more than one week, and reduced prices for children. A one-week child rate (ages two to 11) starts at £360.

The mountains of Spain can be spectacular riding country. Aventura, now in its sixteenth year of operation, offers a choice of horses or sure-footed mules for its Spanish holidays this year. The average day on its Andalusian rides demands about four hours in the saddle, and the accommodation is at its riding centre or in Spanish pousadas, which are small inns with stables.

There is a choice of routes, but keen riders will probably opt for either the seven or 15-day horseback expedition across the rocky landscapes of the Sierra Nevada mountains. This costs from £495, excluding flights to Malaga. Less demanding mule-riding holidays, ideal for inexperienced riders, start at £385 for one week.

Cavalry Tours has a choice of rides in Andalusia, from Estepona to Zahara on the Atlantic Coast, lasting one week, for fit, experienced riders only, overnighting in hotels; the cost is £289 including flights. In the Sierra Nevada, Cavalry offers six days' packhorse riding on hill trails from village to village, staying overnight in pousadas at prices from £646.

The growing range of horseback holidays extends to remote corners of the earth, and provides an opportunity for some demanding riding in spectacular surroundings.

The widest selection of overseas riding holidays is available from Cavalry Tours, which this year is extending its rides into China, riding with the Cossacks on the Russian border (three weeks at prices from £2,578). It also offers opportunities to see the Chilean Andes on horseback (two weeks at prices from £1,985); or, nearer home, riding by Lake Balaton in Hungary (one week from £819). Prices are all-inclusive, but these more energetic and far-flung rides are for experienced riders only.

## INFORMATION

Emirates Holidays 0907 522556; Northumbria Horse Holidays 0207 2293324; The Petty France Hotel, Bedminster, Avon 045423 361; Trans-Wales Trail Rides 0874 711395; Loch Ness Equicentre 046375 281; Isle of Arran Riding Holidays 07708 261230; La France des Villages 04693 04693; American Round-Up 0442 214621; Ranch America 01-208 2750; Aventura 0903 201784; Cavalry Tours 01-602 8433.

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## HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

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